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goal! Weekly

Season 5: Issue 9 Monday 27th April 2009

SEBASTIAN KIPMAN'S LEGACY OF THE NSL

GAGULA TAKES OVER LIONS DEN

LONDON CALLING

Photo: Daniel Flis

MARKING THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE!

EXCLUSIVE

FFV CEO MARK RENDELL SPEAKS TO GW'S CHRIS ALOI

MORE PROVI FIXTURES! / WORLD CUP / VPL ROUND 8

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Monday 27th April 2009

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE SE 1 - SEASON 2009

goal! weekly

Round 1
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Mooroolbark 1 - 1 Ashburton Esther Park Res
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Monbulk 0 - 3 Fitzroy City Monbulk Rec Res
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Monash Uni 2 - 2 Old Camb Gram Monash Uni Sports Grnd
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Mornington 3 - 1 Endeavour Utd Dallas Brooks Park
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Warragul Utd 0 - 0 Doveton Baxter Park (Warragul)
Sat 6 Jun KO 3:00PM Old Melburnians v Old Scotch Robert Menzies Res

Round 2
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Warragul Utd 3 - 1 Endeavour Utd Baxter Park (Warragul)
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Mornington 2 - 2 Old Scotch Dallas Brooks Park
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Old Camberwell Gram 4 - 1 Old Melburnians Deepdene Park
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Fitzroy City 1 - 0 Monash Uni Fairfield Park
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Doveton 1 - 1 Mooroolbark Waratah Res
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Ashburton 0 - 4 Monbulk Ashburton Park

Round 3
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Monbulk 0 - 0 Mooroolbark Monbulk Rec Res
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Monash Uni 2 - 1 Ashburton Monash Uni Sports Grnd
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Old Melburnians 1 - 0 Fitzroy City Robert Menzies Res
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Mornington 1 - 1 Old Camberwell Gram Dallas Brooks Park
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Warragul Utd 2 - 0 Old Scotch Baxter Park (Warragul)
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Endeavour Utd 1 - 3 Doveton Reema Res

Round 4
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Old Scotch 5 - 1 Endeavour Utd H.A. Smith Res
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Old Camberwell Gram 0 - 1 Warragul Utd Deepdene Park
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Fitzroy City 2 - 1 Mornington Fairfield Park
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Doveton 1 - 1 Monbulk Waratah Res
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Ashburton 1 - 4 Old Melburnians Ashburton Park
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Mooroolbark 2 - 4 Monash Uni Esther Park Res

Round 5
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Monash Uni v Monbulk Monash Uni Sports Grnd
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Old Melburnians v Mooroolbark Robert Menzies Res
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Mornington v Ashburton Dallas Brooks Park
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Warragul Utd v Fitzroy City Baxter Park (Warragul)
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Endeavour Utd v Old Camberwell Gram Reema Res
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Old Scotch v Doveton H.A. Smith Res

Round 6
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Old Camberwell Gram v Old Scotch Deepdene Park
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Endeavour Utd Fairfield Park
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Doveton v Monash Uni Waratah Res
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Ashburton v Warragul Utd Ashburton Park
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Mornington Esther Park Res
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Monbulk v Old Melburnians Monbulk Rec Res

Round 7
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Old Melburnians v Monash Uni Robert Menzies Res
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Mornington v Monbulk Dallas Brooks Park
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Warragul Utd v Mooroolbark Baxter Park (Warragul)
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Endeavour Utd v Ashburton Reema Res
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Old Scotch v Fitzroy City H.A. Smith Res
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Old Camberwell Gram v Doveton Deepdene Park

Round 8
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Old Camberwell Gram Fairfield Park
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Doveton v Old Melburnians Waratah Res
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Ashburton v Old Scotch Ashburton Park
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Endeavour Utd Esther Park Res
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Monbulk v Warragul Utd Monbulk Rec Res
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Monash Uni v Mornington Monash Uni Sports Grnd

Round 9
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Mornington v Old Melburnians Dallas Brooks Park
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Warragul Utd v Monash Uni Baxter Park (Warragul)
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Endeavour Utd v Monbulk Reema Res
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Old Scotch v Mooroolbark H.A. Smith Res
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Old Camberwell Gram v Ashburton Deepdene Park
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Doveton Fairfield Park

Round 10
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Mornington v Doveton Dallas Brooks Park
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Ashburton v Fitzroy City Ashburton Park
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Monbulk v Old Scotch Monbulk Rec Res
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Monash Uni v Endeavour Utd Monash Uni Sports Grnd
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Old Melburnians v Warragul Utd Robert Menzies Res
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Old Camberwell Gram Esther Park Res

Round 11
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Warragul Utd v Mornington Baxter Park (Warragul)
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Endeavour Utd v Old Melburnians Reema Res
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Old Scotch v Monash Uni H.A. Smith Res
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Old Camberwell Gram v Monbulk Deepdene Park
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Mooroolbark Fairfield Park
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Doveton v Ashburton Waratah Res

Round 12
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Ashburton v Mooroolbark Ashburton Park
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Monbulk Fairfield Park
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Old Camberwell Gram v Monash Uni Deepdene Park
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Old Scotch v Old Melburnians H.A. Smith Res
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Endeavour Utd v Mornington Reema Res
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Doveton v Warragul Utd Waratah Res

Round 13
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Endeavour Utd v Warragul Utd Reema Res
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Old Scotch v Mornington H.A. Smith Res
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Old Melburnians v Old Camberwell Gram Robert Menzies Res
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Monash Uni v Fitzroy City Monash Uni Sports Grnd
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Doveton Esther Park Res
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Monbulk v Ashburton Monbulk Rec Res

Round 14
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Monbulk Esther Park Res
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Ashburton v Monash Uni Ashburton Park
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Old Melburnians Fairfield Park
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Old Camberwell Gram v Mornington Deepdene Park
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Old Scotch v Warragul Utd H.A. Smith Res
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Doveton v Endeavour Utd Waratah Res

Round 15
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Endeavour Utd v Old Scotch Reema Res
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Warragul Utd v Old Camberwell Gram Baxter Park (Warragul)
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Mornington v Fitzroy City Dallas Brooks Park
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Monbulk v Doveton Monbulk Rec Res
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Old Melburnians v Ashburton Robert Menzies Res
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Monash Uni v Mooroolbark Monash Uni Sports Grnd

Round 16
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Monbulk v Monash Uni Monbulk Rec Res
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Old Melburnians Esther Park Res
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Ashburton v Mornington Ashburton Park
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Warragul Utd Fairfield Park
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Old Camberwell Gram v Endeavour Utd Deepdene Park
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Doveton v Old Scotch Waratah Res

Round 17
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Old Scotch v Old Camberwell Gram H.A. Smith Res
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Endeavour Utd v Fitzroy City Reema Res
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Monash Uni v Doveton Monash Uni Sports Grnd
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Warragul Utd v Ashburton Baxter Park (Warragul)
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Mornington v Mooroolbark Dallas Brooks Park
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Old Melburnians v Monbulk Robert Menzies Res

Round 18
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Monash Uni v Old Melburnians Monash Uni Sports Grnd
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Monbulk v Mornington Monbulk Rec Res
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Warragul Utd Esther Park Res
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Ashburton v Endeavour Utd Ashburton Park
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Old Scotch Fairfield Park
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Doveton v Old Camberwell Gram Waratah Res

Round 19
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Old Camberwell Gram v Fitzroy City Deepdene Park
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Old Melburnians v Doveton Robert Menzies Res
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Old Scotch v Ashburton H.A. Smith Res
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Endeavour Utd v Mooroolbark Reema Res
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Warragul Utd v Monbulk Baxter Park (Warragul)
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Mornington v Monash Uni Dallas Brooks Park

Round 20
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Old Melburnians v Mornington Robert Menzies Res
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Monash Uni v Warragul Utd Monash Uni Sports Grnd
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Monbulk v Endeavour Utd Monbulk Rec Res
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Old Scotch Esther Park Res
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Ashburton v Old Camberwell Gram Ashburton Park
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Doveton v Fitzroy City Waratah Res

Round 21
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Doveton v Mornington Waratah Res
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Ashburton Fairfield Park
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Old Scotch v Monbulk H.A. Smith Res
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Endeavour Utd v Monash Uni Reema Res
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Warragul Utd v Old Melburnians Baxter Park (Warragul)
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Old Camberwell Gram v Mooroolbark Deepdene Park

Round 22
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Mornington v Warragul Utd Dallas Brooks Park
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Old Melburnians v Endeavour Utd Robert Menzies Res
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Monash Uni v Old Scotch Monash Uni Sports Grnd
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Monbulk v Old Camberwell Gram Monbulk Rec Res
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Fitzroy City Esther Park Res
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Ashburton v Doveton Ashburton Park

Draw Notes:
CATCH-UP ROUNDS - 6th June 20KO & 12 September 20KO - Clubs will be notified by FFV of matches to be played on this weekend during the course of the season. CLUBS ARE ADVISED TO VERIFY THEIR FIXTURES REGULARLY VIA RESULTS VAULT AND THE FFV WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE SEASON.

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Issue #9

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ZORAN RESIGNS

Gagula To Lead Lions Out Of Wilderness

Preston Lions has appointed Zeljko Gagula as the new senior coach for the remainder of the 2009 Victorian Premier League season.

Gagula returns back to the Lions after serving as the Assistant Coach in 2007 when the Lions finished the season as Premiers and Champions of the Victorian Premier League. Gagula had also served as coach of the clubs Under 21 Youth Squad in 2005 and 2006.

"The club is in a very difficult position and should not be there. Preston Lions is a big club with the biggest supporter base and although it's going to be hard work we can only improve on our current position" stated Gagula.

"I will work hard to build confidence in the squad and to get the boys to not only to play for themselves but for the shirt as well".

Gagula's appointment comes after Zoran Trajceski had elected to relinquish his role as senior coach last Monday after the Round 7 loss to Hume City. The club wishes Trajceski all the best in his future endeavours.

Preston is now languishing second last on the ladder with a solitary point, yet to win a match this year and having conceded an alarming 27 goals after 7 rounds - not the most ideal form to be celebrating the club's 50th Anniversary.

Trajceski had taken over from John Markovski only four weeks before the season commenced after the former Socceroo vacated the post at Connor Reserve.

High calibre and established VPL players like John Sapazovski, Tony Sterjovski, Zoran Petrovski, Nich Schwal, Dusko Delic, Lou Aceski and Les Anastasiou also left to sign for other teams, forcing the Lions to rebuild with minimum preparation for the new season.

Speaking to Goal! Weekly Trajceski said, "I came into a difficult situation where a lot of players had left the club and I decided to help the club as much as I could. I tried to use all my knowledge and resources but unfortunately we got to the point where I couldn't help anymore and I had to resign. We had a young team and it has been difficult to replace the players that have left but that was my decision, and I am very grateful to the committee and the players and I wish Preston all the best."

He went on to add, "They have to pick up some points over the next couple of games and utilise the transfer window when it opens on in May. Hopefully they can do that with the new coach."

Trajceski said he will take a break from football and concentrate on his two businesses.

Also speaking to Goal! Weekly new coach Gagula said, "The club's probably at its lowest it's ever been and player wise they're very thin at the moment. Obviously it is a situation that should never have been allowed to take place and finding themselves in that position - but it is what it is and the results have to change immediately. The biggest problem has been that they're getting smashed every week, and that is just not acceptable for a proud club like Preston Lions."

Preston's new head coach Zeljko Gagula with the 2007 VPL trophy.

Asked what needs to be done to turn things around, Gagula said, "Discipline has to be the utmost, as well as giving everything they possibly can. With the transfer window opening in two weeks time we have no choice but to try and bolster the ranks. There's enough time to turn things around, but unless we do something drastic to start picking up points immediately then it's going to be very hard."

"There is definitely hope around the club and enough games left to play for, but the players have to start earning some respect and walking off the pitch at the end of the ninety minutes with their head held high again. This club doesn't deserve to drop into the first division or to be copping some of the results of late."

"I've already told the players that if they don't perform they can't expect to stay here. I'm not going to accept mediocrity from anyone. Regardless if you're an experienced player or a youngster, you've got to be able to show something there to justify selection. We're not going to be able to play the attractive soccer Preston is renowned for, we just have to fight. It's as simple as that."

Asked if it's a case of parking the team bus across the goal line a la Aurelio Vidmar style, Gagula laughed, "Well, you gotta do what you gotta do to try and salvage the situation, but I don't think we'll go to that extreme, but obviously we need to strengthen the defence. Having said that, we need to strengthen all over the park. The defence can't be solely to blame when we're losing the ball further up the field. Doesn't matter how much of a wall you build, if there's constant pressure up against it – it will eventually get penetrated."

"We can't take many risks, but we need to sort ourselves across the back and in the middle of the park."

Gagula took his first training with the squad last Thursday and was encouraged by the 50 supporters or so who were also present to watch the session.

"If we can do well our supporters will be back and we'll be averaging 2-3 thousand people again to our games."

After playing away from home for the past four weeks, the Lions will meet Sunshine George Cross in Round 8 of the Victorian Premier League this Sunday at BT Connor Reserve from 3pm for the Seniors and 1pm for Under 21's.

In seasons gone by, Preston has traditionally been slow out of the proverbial starting blocks, hitting their straps and then sailing into finals contention on the back of a string of strong results.

However, with a condensed VPL competition of 12 teams, there are obviously less games to play for, so Gagula and his troops will have no time to waste in getting points on the board.

The fight to beat the drop has also intensified in recent weeks with the other club occupying the second relegation spot, Whittlesea Zebras, also undergoing a coaching change with former Young Socceroo coach Ange Postecoglou replacing Ivan Jolic in an attempt to reverse their current plight.

By Gordon Bennett

Phot by Nome Risteski

VPL STANDINGS

errea

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Dandenong Thunder	8	7	1	0	11	4	22
South Melbourne	8	5	1	2	19	8	16
Heidelberg Utd	8	5	1	2	11	6	16
Richmond	8	4	2	2	13	8	14
Altona Magic	8	4	2	2	10	8	14
Green Gully Cavaliers	8	3	3	2	8	6	12
Hume City	8	3	1	4	14	8	10
Oakleigh Cannons	8	3	1	4	9	6	10
Melbourne Knights	8	3	1	4	7	8	10
Sunshine Georgies	8	3	1	4	5	8	10
Whittlesea Zebras	8	0	1	7	3	15	1
Preston Lions	8	0	1	7	3	28	1

VPL RESULTS

Richmond 2 (E Karahan NJ Robinson) **Dandenong 3** (H Armenian S Rexhepi SJ Bailey)
Hume City 1 (RJ Thompson) **South Melbourne 2** (V Coveny S Petrovic)
Green Gully Cavaliers 0 Heidelberg Utd 2 (G Hockless O Ederaro)
Altona Magic 1 (M Curcija) **Oakleigh Cannons 0**
Melbourne Knights 1 (J Groenewald) **Whittlesea Zebras 1** (R O'Hare)
Preston Lions 0 Sunshine Georgies 1 (J Sapazovski)

ANDREW FISHER'S KISS OF DEATH - Round 9

DANDENONG V PRESTON

Sat 2nd May, 3:00pm George Andrews Res
Not sure about you, but I'm interested to see what the odds would have been for Dandenong to go though half the season undefeated. The Thunder and Lions renew a rivalry that hasn't been played for eight years, and by the look of it won't continue next season. The last time the Lions beat the Thunder, Warren Spink was on the score sheet. **HOME WIN**

Last 5 Meetings: Dand 1-0 Prest (2001) Prest 1-2 Dand (2001), Prest 3-1 Dand (1999) Dand 4-3 Prest (1999), Dand 4-2 Prest (1998)

GREEN GULLY V HUME CITY

Sat 2nd May, 4:00pm Green Gully Reserve.
Three points is vital for either team in this fixture. Just two points separate these sides, which makes this match very hard to predict. Gully haven't won in three, Hume have won two in three, however Gully did the double over Hume last season. I can see Hume pinching this one. **AWAY WIN**

Last 5 Meetings: Hume 1-2 Gully (2008), Gully 2-0 Hume (2008), DNP

SUNSHINE V MELB KNIGHT

Sun 3rd May. 3:00pm Chaplin Reserve
Melbourne Knights will make the short trip up Hampshire road to take on local rivals Sunshine. Both sides are sitting just above the relegation zone, and will be looking to secure maximum points to break away. The Knights have had the wood over the Georgies in recent times. **DRAW**

Last 5 Meetings: Knights 5-0 Sun (2007), Sun 1-1 Knights (2007), Knights 2-1 Sun (2006), Sun 0-2 Knights (2006), Knights 0-0 Sun (2005)

WHITTLESEA V ALTONA MAGIC

Date & Time TBC.
Whittlesea earned the first point last week, and have been showing consistent improvement over the last month. Altona have seen some mixed results this season, and will see this game as a tough fixture. Whittlesea have a decent record over the Magic in recent times. **AWAY WIN**

Last 5 Meetings: Whitt 1-1 Alt (2008), Alt 2-3 Whitt (2008), Alt 1-0 Whitt (2007), Whitt 1-1 Alt (2007), Alt 1-2 Whitt (2006)

SOUTH MELBOURNE V OAKLEIGH

Sun 3rd May, 4:00pm Bob Jane Stadium
South Melbourne and Oakleigh renew hostilities on Sunday, with South Melbourne looking to continue their magnificent run that has seen them undefeated since round 2. The Cannons have been unable to string 2 wins together so far, which has seen them slip out of finals contention. South should be to strong. **HOME WIN.**

Last 5 Meetings: South 3-1 Oak (2008), Oak 1-0 South (2008), South 5-2 Oak (2007), Oak 1-1 South (2007), South 0-1 Oak (2006)

HEIDELBERG V RICHMOND

Mon 4th May, 8.30pm Olympic Village.
Richmond lost their grip on the top two after succumbing to Dandenong last week. Their task doesn't get any easier when they take on the Heidelberg at the Olympic Village on Monday night. Heidelberg bounced back from their defeat to the Knights to defeat the Gully at Bendigo. **HOME WIN**

Last 5 Meetings: Heid 2-1 Rich (2008 Finals), Rich 2-2 Heid (2008), Heid 1-0 Rich (2008), Rich 2-1 Heid (2007), Heid 2-4 Rich (2006)

For those who like a flutter on the English betting sites, this week's outside bet is Whittlesea to defeat Altona. This week's safe bet: Thunder to thump Preston. Remember bet responsibly.

By Andrew Fisher
Kiss of Death

Round 9 FIXTURES

Dandenong Thunder
v
Preston Lions
George Andrews Res
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM

Green Gully Cavaliers
v
Hume City
Green Gully Reserve
Sat 2 May KO 4:00PM

Sunshine Georgies
v
Melbourne Knights
Chaplin Reserve
Sun 3 May KO 3:00PM

Whittlesea Zebras
v
Altona Magic
To Be Confirmed

South Melbourne
v
Oakleigh Cannons
Bob Jane Stadium
Sun 3 May KO 4:00PM

Heidelberg Utd
v
Richmond Eagles
Olympic Park (Village)
Mon 4 May KO 8:30PM

TOP SHOTS! errea

Thanks to our friends at Erreà the Top Scorer of this season's VPL will receive a $500 gift voucher. Thanks to our friends at Erreà the Top Scorer of this season's VPL will receive a $500 gift voucher.

Goran Zoric,South Melb 6
Osagie Ederaro, Heidelberg Utd 6
Zoran Petrevski, Hume City 5

VPL UNDER 21 DETAILS

Richmond 2 Dandenong Thunder 0, Hume City 0 South Melbourne 3, Altona Magic 1 Oakleigh Cannons 2, Melbourne Knights 0 Whittlesea Zebras 3, Preston Lions 1 Sunshine Georgies 2, Green Gully Cavaliers 2 Heidelberg Utd 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Green Gully Cavaliers	9	5	2	2	11	8	17
Sunshine Georgies	8	5	1	2	20	8	16
South Melbourne	8	5	1	2	13	6	16
Melbourne Knights	9	5	0	4	10	11	15
Heidelberg Utd	8	4	2	2	11	9	14
Whittlesea Zebras	8	4	1	3	17	9	13
Richmond	9	4	1	4	17	13	13
Oakleigh Cannons	8	3	1	4	11	18	10
V.I.S	5	3	0	2	10	10	9
Hume City	9	4	0	5	14	17	9
Altona Magic	8	2	2	4	7	11	8
Preston Lions	9	2	0	7	10	19	6
Dandenong Thunder	8	1	1	6	8	20	4

SKY'S THE LIMIT!

New Boys Thunder Open Six Point Lead

RICHMOND EAGLES 2 - 3 DANDENONG THUNDER

Dandenong Thunder continue to scale the heights of the VPL fending off the challenge of second placed Richmond Eagles with a thrilling 3-2 away win on Friday night.

The win gives the undefeated Thunder an amazing seven wins from eight starts.

The travelling legion of Thunder fans were still trickling into Kevin Bartlett reserve on Friday evening when Hamlett Armenian gave the visitors a dream start inside the first minute. The flying winger slotted home a Veton Korcari cut-back from close range. Thunder pushed forward creating further chances in the first ten minutes including a Shane Rexhepi header from a corner which produced an acrobatic diving save from Richmond keeper Peter Zois, and another chance to Armenian who miss-timed his shot straight at Zois.

The home team soon regained their composure and found themselves unexpectedly on level terms when left back Erhan Karahan let fly with a 30 metre screamer which powered past Dandenong keeper Stuart Webster into the top right hand corner of the goal.

The Eagles' midfield trio of Dimi Tsiaras, Lorenz Kindtner and Richie Cardozo began to control the tempo of the game, whilst Dandenong were missing their usual thrust out wide on the right where Jack Hingert and Armenian were having a battle on their hands with the Richmond duo of Karahan and Cardozo.

The experienced Kindtner set up the next goal for the Eagles, when his pass found striker Nick Robinson on the edge of the box, whose low shot fired the home team into the lead in the 37th minute.

Changes to both teams after the break changed the complexion of the game. Thunder introduced Joe DiIorio after the break to partner Korcari up front and Sam Bailey on the left flank, a move which paid immediate dividends when Bailey demonstrated his dead ball skills to convert a free kick awarded for a Richmond foul on Hingert.

With the score at 2-2, Richmond lost influential midfielder Kindtner to injury forcing a re-shuffle and a loss of momentum.

The Hingert –Armenian combination was starting to click into gear on the right flank for the Thunder, whilst Marcus Stergiopoulos and Ryan Davidson who were quiet in the first half, lifted their performances in the middle.

In the 58th minute, Stergiopoulos took a corner from the right. The Eagles defence had ignored the first half warning of Rexhepi's aerial prowess at the set piece and paid dearly when the central defender powered home a header for what proved to be the winning goal of the game.

Thunder coach Stuart Munro said after the match, " We were just shocking in the first half. We allowed them too much possession possibly because of the fact that we scored so early in the game. Too many players thought they were going to have an easy game. It was never going to be the case. It took us till half time, till I gave them a bit of a rocket and we made a couple of changes. I thought the second half, they showed a lot of character, something we haven't seen yet. It's good that this squad of players has that character to come back in what was a difficult game in difficult circumstances."

Richmond coach Mike Chatzitrifonas, commented after the match, " In terms of our endeavour, our commitment and our fight, I thought we were the far better team in the first half, but we lost it in the first 10 minutes of the second half. But full credit to Dandenong, they've come here, they played well, scored three very good goals and taken the points."

Lineups:

Richmond Eagles:

Zois, P., Black, D., Karahan, E., Antoniadis T., McCluskey, S., Tsiaras, D., Cardozo, R, Catalano, M. (Milardovic, T 79'), Kindtner, L. (Kalambokis, N.52'),, Robinson, N., Viola, A.

Scorers: Karahan, 14', Robinson 37'

Dandenong Thunder:

Webster, S., Hingert, J., Bahnsen, N., Osman, L., Armenian, H., Thomas, J (Bailey, S. 45'), Quirk, C. (DiIorio, J. 45'), Davidson, R., Stergiopoulos, M.. Korcari, V., Rexhepi, S.

Scorers: Armenian, 1', Bailey, 48', Rexhepi, 58'

Man of the Match: J. Hingert (Dandenong)

By George Stogiannou

Photos by George Stogiannou

Thunder's winning goal scorer Shane Rexhepi, saluting the Dandy faithful.

Richmond players congratulate goalscorer, striker Nick Robinson.

SOUTH CEMENTS SECOND

Coveny Notches 100th Goal For Blues

HUME CITY 1 - 2 SOUTH MELBOURNE

South Melbourne has cemented it's spot in the top two of the Victorian Premier League, after a resounding 1-2 ANZAC Cup victory away to Hume City at Broadmeadows Valley Reserve on Saturday.

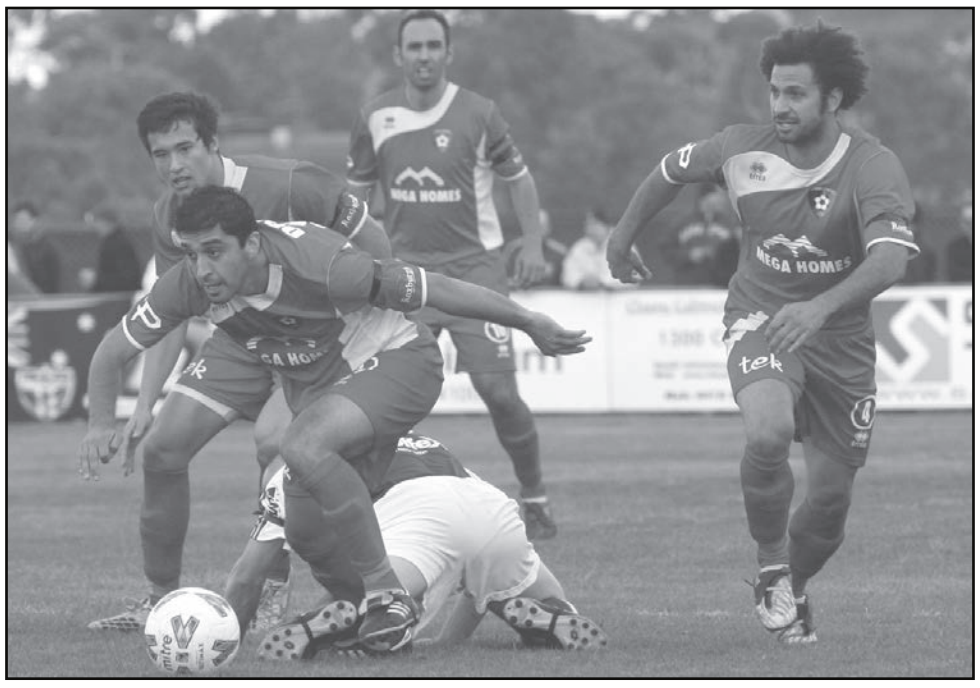
South were coming into the game on the back of a five game unbeaten run and they started the game like a side in form, attacking the Hume defence from the outset via a long range attempt by veteran Vaughan Coveny.

The Blues continued to bombard the Hume goal with a huge wind behind their backs and could have had the lead only moments later after a long ball down the right hand flank released Coveny in space. With strike partner Goran Zoric waiting in the middle Coveny hit a well-weighted cross into the area, only for the ball to be plucked from above the head of the small striker by Hume goalkeeper Lou Acevski.

Vaughan Coveny continued to torment the Hume defence and his man-marker and former NSL team-mate Tansel Baser at every opportunity, hitting another two long range strikes into the prying arms of Acevski, who thwarted the big kiwi in convincing fashion.

With the man known as the "Horse" intent scoring his 100th career goal for South Melbourne FC, the South midfield continued to work hard in an attempt to give the veteran his opportunity to achieve the milestone.

In the 38th minute, some exceptional work down the right hand side by Eddie Cetkin allowed for the ball to be kept in play and to be delivered to his captain Rama Tavsancioglu. He then confidently barraged his way past two Hume defenders before hitting a lovely cross to the near post towards the unmarked Zoric. With Coveny open at the back post, Zoric flicked the ball across goal to find theveteran, who obligingly buried his header into the back of the net to send the travelling South fans into raptures.



South Melbourne's Eddie Cetkin loses out to sheer weight of numbers as Alfonso Opazo takes the ball away supported by Hume City team-mates Jason Davidson (left) and Brendan Beni

George Papadopous slips one Magic keeper Roganovich to level the scores at 1-1 just before half time. Inset Roganovich sees red.

The second half was a far less open contest, with Hume intent on not allowing the same amount of space and possession to be given to the dominant South side. This coupled by a heavy and quite rare Melbourne downpour led for some scrappy and unadventurous football to be played

Despite this South found the 2nd goal of the contest in the 65th minute, after a blistering free kick by Vaughan Coveny was parried into the path of Sebastian Petrovic. With the keeper on the ground, the hard-working midfielder slammed the ball into the net to give his side a two-goal advantage.

With time ticking down, Hume would have their first real chance of the contest in the 74th minute when they were awarded a free-kick just outside the area.

With a howling wind at his back, Ross Thompson stepped up and hit a simply stunning drive past the hapless Tommi Tomich and into the top corner of the net to give his side some hope.

Despite some shaky moments however South managed to claim the three points and the much sought after ANZAC Day Cup, a trophy that will now be added to the club's growing trophy cabinet.

Captain Rama Tavsancioglu was awarded the man-of-the-match award claiming that "it was a great win by the side against a real quality opposition. We were challenged at times and really worked hard to get the result which is very pleasing"

South will now host Oakleigh next Sunday afternoon at 4pm in a cracking derby match, whilst Hume must re-group before taking on Green Gully away from home next Saturday.

By George Kouroumalis

Photos by John Punshon

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WARRIORS GOLDEN DOUBLE

Goal Rush For Bergers In Bendigo

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 0 - 2 HEIDELBERG UNITED

A cracking twenty five yard strike early in the first half from Graham Hockless, coupled with a late goal to Osagie Ederaro sealed a 2-0 victory for a ten man Heidelberg United against the Green Gully Cavaliers in ANZAC Day football at Bendigo.

The Football Federation of Victoria worked closely with the City of Greater Bendigo, the Bendigo Amateur Soccer League, the Department of Veterans Affairs and both Green Gully and Heidelberg to showcase top flight Victorian football in the heart of regional Victoria on a day of national significance. Only the weather failed to co-operate, as Tom Flood Reserve lived up to its name with the bulk of the game played in torrential rain.

On the pitch, the game kicked off in sensational circumstances with reigning Gold Medallist Graham Hockless showcasing the best of what both he and Victorian football can offer, by gifting Heidelberg the lead in the fifth minute. After clearing the danger from the first corner of the game, Green Gully failed to mark Hockless twenty five yards from goal. The midfielder immediately pulled the trigger, notching a goal with deadly power and accuracy. Green Gully goalkeeper Steven Tilovski stood no chance to deny Hockless, blinded by a crowded box as the ball sailed into the top right hand corner of the net.

With the torrid weather conditions making opportunities scarce in the first half, Green Gully twice tried to level the contest, but to no avail. Andy Vargas went within inches of scoring from a set piece in the twenty fifth minute with a curling, dipping ball which scrapped the paint over the crossbar. Ten minutes later, Green Gully youngster Diogo Ferreira struck from just outside the box, but his shot sailed low into the arms of Heidelberg goalkeeper Peter Gavalas.

Green Gully had Steve Tilovski to thank for minimising the damage on the scoreboard to only a goal before half time. Heidelberg's work rate was outstanding in the first half, and this continued with Osagie Ederaro mesmerising the Green Gully midfield and defence with a solo run along the right flank. Ederaro continued his run into the box and crossed the ball to set up an unmarked Anthony Magnacca from twelve yards. Magnacca's strike looked all certain for the back of the net, only for Tilovski to save at full stretch on his left side in mid air.

Players and officials take care of formal proceedings prior to kick off in Bendigo.

The Cavaliers began the second half in positive fashion, creating a string of scoring opportunities and their quest for an equaliser was enhanced when Heidelberg had James Stefanou sent off in the fifty fifth minute for his second booking of the game. Green Gully continued to mount pressure on the Warriors and had claims for a penalty in the seventieth minute when Aziz Behich's cross appeared to make contact with the arm of Heidelberg United's captain Tony Ouliaris.

The penalty appeal was turned down and Green Gully's momentum came undone ten minutes later in a terrible mix up between defender Steve Burton and Steven Tilovski, who collided with each other on the edge of the box in an attempt to clear a ball deep in their own half. Both Burton and Tilovski had no time to recover as the ball spilt to United forward Osagie Ederaro, who scored in front of an open goal from fifteen yards, all but assuring the Warriors maximum points from their regional road trip.

Green Gully immediately responded and refused to lie down after the restart. Aziz Behich latched onto a pass and stuck powerfully from thirty yards out. The strike was goal bound, but saved by Gavalas at full stretch on his left. But it was too little, too late from the Cavaliers, who walked away full time with no points, nor a consolation goal for their better display in the second half.

Heidelberg coach George Katsakis was delighted with the result, mentioning "it was a huge win away from home….our work rate, pressure and performance was exceptional from start to finish. It's a big day, yet a long day coming to Bendigo and I thought we were generally organised and disciplined throughout the contest."

To the contrary, Green Gully coach David Winton expressed mixed emotions about his side's performance, stating "our first half was unacceptable. We were disorganised, second to the ball and wasteful bringing the ball out of our own half. To my side's credit, I could not fault them in the second half…. we were much better and it was a shame because we only made one mistake which cost us dearly."

The victory elevated Heidelberg from fifth to equal second on the Victorian Premier League table. The Warriors will again be tested this week against another top six opponent when they host Richmond Monday night at Olympic Village. Green Gully on the other hand, will be looking to stop the rot and keep in touch with the top six, as they entertain Hume City in a must win clash on Saturday at Green Gully Reserve.

Green Gully: S. Tilovski, K. Ivesic, S. Burton, K. Delev, J. Fleming (c), M. Sanders (A. Behich 46'), J. Adam (D. Fak 46'), M. Medjedovic, A. Vargas, J. Nikolic, D. Ferreira (P. Cardozo 55')

Scorers: Nil

Yellow cards: Jeffrey Fleming (50'), Mile Medjedovic (60')
Red cards: Nil

Heidelberg United: P. Gavalas, P. Roberts, D. Jones, A. Ouliaris (c), E. Vassiliadis, A. Magnacca, G. Hockless, B. Petta (D. Alilovic 63'), J. Stefanou, M. Gasparis (E. Ameti 75'), O. Ederaro (J. Drossos 88')

Scorers: Graham Hockless (5'), Osagie Ederaro (80')

Yellow Cards: Peter Roberts (55'), James Stefanou (40', 55')
Red Cards: James Stefanou (55')

Venue: Tom Flood Reserve, Bendigo
Crowd: 700

Man of the Match: Anthony Ouliaris (Heidelberg)

By Simon McCuskey

Photos by Simon McCuskey

ZEBRAS PROVE A POINT

Knights Fail To Put Zebras To The Sword

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 - 1 WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS

The Whittlesea Zebra's have earned the first point of the Victorian Premier League season, coming away from Mansion stadium with a well earned draw on Sunday afternoon.

The Knights will feel aggravated with the draw, but will also be counting their blessings as the Zebra's almost pinched all the points. The Zebra's guilty of missing a first half penalty, then giving up a lead and blowing a last minute one on one opportunity.

Wet and very windy conditions greeted the teams at the newly named Mansion Stadium, (Formally Knights Stadium) the first home game of the season for the Knights.

Melbourne Knights buoyed by last weeks surprise victory over Heidelberg, started the brighter with Lagana and Draper trying their luck early with long range strikes that failed to hit the target.

Tex Apostolikas created the first chance for the visitors, turning his defender inside out and shooting from the edge of the area, with Fluss saving at the second attempt.

The Knights had a legitimate penalty shout turned down when it appeared Greg Draper was tripped by Gerohristodoulou in the Zebra's goal, referee Perry Mur waved play on and did not book Draper leaving the whole situation quite confusing.

Midway through the half a surging run from Brandon Vassallo into the penalty box, required a sublime last ditch tackle form Matthew Grbesa. At the other end, Craig Elvin was denied by a brilliant save when he was put though by Draper.

It was Whittlesea that should have gone into the half time break with the lead, a clumsy challenge from Grbesa saw Perry Mur point to the spot, there was doubt weather the challenge was made inside the box, but the penalty was awarded. Tex Apostolikas stepped up and drove his penalty directly at Josh Fluss who couldn't get out of the way, to send the teams into half time goalless.

Josh Gronewald finds the back of the net and pulls the Knights level.

The Knights created the first chance of the second half when some good work from Dugandzic and Draper created the opportunity for Lagana, only for the keeper to deny the Knights once more.

Against the run, it was the Zebra's who broke the deadlock. A penetrating run from O'Hare saw him burst into the penalty box and slot the ball expertly past the advancing Fluss.

This sparked the Knights into action, Lagana's though ball released Groenewald who rushed his shot and missed the target. A minute later a long throw from Grbesa was flicked on by Draper only to be denied by the cross bar.

On the hour mark the Knights did get their goal. A well worked corner saw Cumming deliver a telling cross for Draper to flick on and Gronewald apply the finish.

The Knights should have taken the lead when Frankie Lagana sent in a left wing cross that was met by the head of Draper, who from six yards out could only head over the bar.

With time running out the Zebra's let the Knights off the hook, Grbesa's attempted back pass to Fluss fell well short, allowing Apostolikas to collect the ball and slot the ball past the keeper, only to miss the target by just millimetres. Funnily enough the ball rebounded off the back post and back to Apostolikas who slotted the ball home, and wheeled away in celebration, but the referee was not to be fooled, blowing full time and bringing the match to a close.

The Knights make the short trip to Chaplin Reserve when they take on Sunshine on Sunday. The Zebra's will take on Altona Magic, time and venue to be confirmed.

MATCH STATS:
SHOTS: MK 10 WZ 5
TARGET: MK 4 WZ 4
CORNERS: MK 6 WZ 1

Melbourne Knights: Fluss, Cumming, Fitzgerald, Grbesa, Dugandzic, Groenewald, Draper (Hatzimouratis 72'), Elvin, Lagana, Kiratzoglou (La Verde 81'), Cannell.

Goals: Gronewald 61'
Yellow Cards: Grbesa 43'
Red Cards: None

Whittlesea Zebras: Gerohristodoulou, Antoniaids, Kovacevic, Piorkowski, Apostolikas, Vassallo, D' Agostino, Sarbin (Vazzocchi 45'), O'Hare (Santilli 65'), Martin, Symeoy

Goals: O Hare 52'
Yellow Cards: None
Red Cards: None

MoM: Gerohristodoulou (WZ)
Crowd: Approx 700 @ Mansion Stadium

Ryan O'Hare scores for the Zebras

By Andrew Fisher

Photos by Daniel Flis

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SAPPA STINGS GAGULA'S DEBUT

Lions Left With A Mountain To Climb

PRESTON LIONS 0 - 1 SUNSHINE GEORGIES

The rain kept away from the BT Connor Reserve for the duration of this match, but the howling cold wind made this game a scrappy affair with both sets of players having great difficulty playing any positive football.

It was the home team who had the better of the first half that must have encouraged new coach Zeljko Cagula, who was taking charge of his first game after the resignation of Zoran Trajceski. The home team suffered a set back after only 3 minutes when midfielder Blaze Georgioski limped off with a hamstring injury and was replaced by Robert Najdovski.

This had little effect on the way Preston went about their job in the first half. They forced the Georgies onto the back foot and could have taken the lead with a little more steadiness in front of goal. Michael Bozevski tried his luck from long range but his shot was off target.

The Georgies couldn't get going with their best effort coming from a feeble John Sapazovski header that gave stand in keeper Alex Stojalovski no problems.

Robert Dolevski was giving Georgies fullback Joe Clancy a lot of problems out on the right wing and it was he that sent Bale Mickovski through on goal. Mickovski cut the ball across the penalty area, but Lupce Koceski's shot went well over the cross-bar.

Preston defender Michael Miskas also went close to scoring following a corner kick that caused panic in the Georgies' defence.

The Georgies should have taken the lead following a foul on George Papadopoulos after 33 minutes. John Sapazovski's free kick sailed high and deceived the Preston keeper who was saved by the cross-bar. The ball fell nicely for Georgies' captain Wayne Wallace who headed the ball yet again onto the cross-bar. It was a lucky let off for Preston.

Wallace had another good opportunity moments later following a well taken Neal Hooks corner. This time his header was well wide of the mark. Sunshine's striker John Barros was forced to leave the field with a suspected broken bone in his foot after 37 minutes.

Four minutes before the break Preston wasted their best chance when Bale Micovski was through on goal. Martin John came out to narrow the angle, but Micovski's lob over John went wide and the opportunity was lost.

The second half belonged to Sunshine as the visitors took control of the game. Good play out wide by Nicholas Scwall ended up with a Steve Manceski shot being deflected for a corner.

The Georgies were running the show in midfield but it was a case of indecision and a bad final ball that kept them from scoring. The opportunities kept on coming and just as quickly being wasted. The break through came after 60 minutes when John Sapazovski broke through on to goal. His low shot was blocked by the Preston goalkeeper.

The ball was deflected into the path of Steve Manceski whose first time effort was gaol bound. Preston's Michael Miskas stopped the ball with his hand that resulted in a double blow for his team. He was dismissed and the resultant penalty kick was tucked away by John Sapazovski who scored his first goal since coming to the Georgies from Preston.

The visitors kept on wasting chances with poor choice final pass that kept Preston in with a chance. The home team did not give up and could have snatched a draw in the dying moments of the match when Igor Arsovski set up Robert Dolevski but his glancing header was save by Martin John.

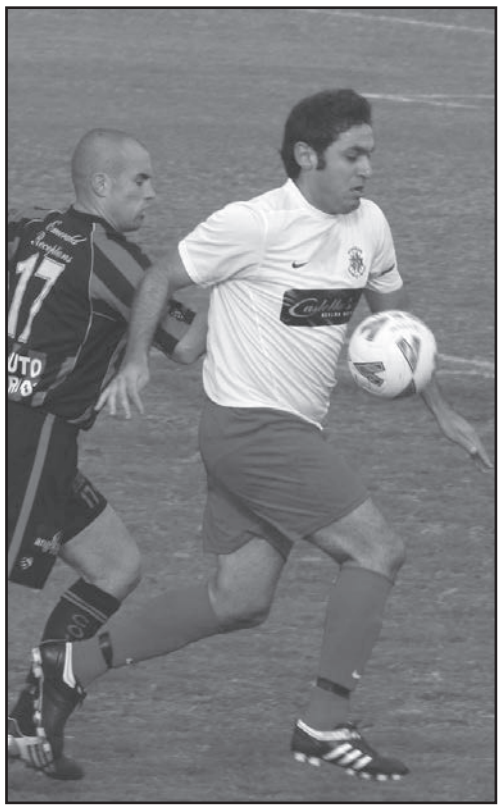
The final whistle saw the Georgies record their 3rd win of the season, while Preston's position remained perilous at the foot of the ladder with only 1 point. In the under 21's the Georgies won their 5th successive game when they overcame Preston 2-1. This coming Sunday the Georgies are at home to the Melbourne Knights, while Preston travels to the George Andrews Reserve to play league leader Dandenong Thunder.

By John Duggan

Photos by Nome Risteski

Dolevski clears away the danger under pressure from Sunshine players

New coach Gagula advises Dolevski



John Sapazovski turns it on against his former side

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CURCIJA WEAVES HIS MAGIC

Cannons Slump As Damianos Sees Red

ALTONA MAGIC 1 - 0 OAKLEIGH CANNONS

Altona Magic defeated Oakleigh Cannons 1-0 at Paisley Park on Saturday night courtesy of a winning strike by veteran striker, Michael Curcija.

This game never hit any great heights on a nippy evening with the once clear opportunity of the first half and a bit of class from a class goalscorer deciding the game in favour of the home side.

Altona had an early chance and it looked early on as if the home side had settled the better of the two teams with Pece Siveski and Nick Kalmar prominent and a lot of quite good passing movements which really seemed to lack the quality ball at the end of the raids. Oakleigh too had their moments with Trent Waterson raiding down the far side of the ground and Bill Damiamos and Ricky Diaco pulling the strings in midfield but neither Adrian Cagalj or Bojo Jevdjevic in the respective goals were forced into anything particularly significant.

The game was held up for quite some time when Altona's Steve Laurie went down under a challenge and received treatment for a good few minutes, he eventually got up and continued but was only able to last until the 27th minute when Magic manager Vlado Tortevski was forced into subbing Laurie, replacing him with Taseski. From this point on the game was mostly bottled up between the respective eighteen yard boxes with both teams showing intent to pass the ball and play football but neither having the final killer ball which would unlock the respective opposition's defence.

The game seemed headed for a goal less score line at the break when a ball played into the Magic attacking area was handled by an Oakleigh defender just outside the penalty box giving the Magic a clear shot on goal and a final opportunity before the interval. Cagalj set his wall with precision and as all proven goal scorers do Michael Curcija curled a delightful free kick around the wall into the bottom right hand corner of Cagalj's goal with the keeper just a spectator. This was quite simply the best indication of why Curcija is the most potent forward in the VPL not really in the game for 44 minutes and 30 seconds but when it was on the line he delivered. Half time and Magic up by the single Curcija goal.

Oakleigh came out the second half and had a bit of a go at the Magic, Cannon's coach John Anastasiadis must have outlined the positives in the half but stressed that the Cannons needed to put some bite to go with the bark they had shown in the opening stanza. Both teams looked to make moves forward while the respective defences were marshalled well to not allow the opposing forwards much joy. Altona had a period of a few corner kicks which bought some sustained pressure without really giving Cagalj and major headaches.

The turning point of the second half came at about the midpoint of it where a late lunging tackle by Billy Damianos saw the referee forced to issue the midfielder his second yellow card of the evening and unfortunately for Damianos, he was off for an early shower.

Really at this stage Oakleigh seemed out of ideas as to how they might get their way back in the game. Oakleigh did push introducing Juan Nilo in an attempt to try and find the equaliser but as the referees whistle cut the cold Altona night it was the home side who picked up a valuable three points.

Oakleigh must be concerned with how their season has panned out in the first eight rounds of season 2009, Jack Edwards reserve has been used to a successful team the past few years and to be three wins out of eight games will be a worry to them. They seem to not be as potent a team as they have been in the past and seem to lack a real scoring threat up front. Altona however will finish round eight in the top 5 and with four wins and only two defeats have set up a reasonable platform for the rest of the season and should be in amongst it when finals come around.

Round nine sees Altona Magic travel to face the bottom of the ladder Whittlesea Zebras. Given the Zebras woeful start to the season the Magic will be fully expecting three points while the Cannons travel to Bob Jane Stadium to lock horns with South Melbourne in one of the traditionally colourful derby games between two Greek backed outfits. South have been consistent and outstanding this season and Oakleigh have by in large be disappointing, so this clash will prove to be an interesting game as the Cannons hope to fire up their season.

Altona Magic 1 (Curcija 45) Oakleigh Cannons 0

Altona Magic
Starting Line Up: Jevdjevic, Laurie (Taseski 27), Mladenovic, Anthopolous, Recchia, Curcija, Sivieski, Fadjevic (Bokju 90), Cergovski, Riccobene, Kalmar
Unused Subs : Saric, Duvcevski, Banfield

Oakleigh Canons
Starting Line Up : Cagalj, Rosman, Franjic (Nilo 77), Diaco, Damianos, Webster, Waterson (Hatzikostas 61), Drakos A., Drakos S., Obradovic (Karpeh 55), Kioussis
Unused Subs : Agustin, Nassar

Yellow Cards : Roccobene (AM), Damianos (O), Damianos (O)
Red Cards : Damianos (O 2 bookable offences)
Crowd: 250
Venue: Paisley Park
MOTM : Pece Siveski (AM)
Game rating : 6 out of 10

By Reuben Schembri

Photo by John Punshon

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From Humble Beginnings To Planet Football

The first World Cup was played in 1930 in Uruguay, the country which had won the title at the last two Olympic Games played in 1924 and 1928. Led by the President of FIFA Jules Rimet, a Frenchman, the competition got under way with thirteen teams, four from Europe and the rest from South America. Uruguay as host nation won the title beating neighbour Argentina in the final by four goals to two. For those who think the United States took up soccer in 1994, it needs to be pointed out that it reached the semi-final along with Yugoslavia.

In 1934, Italy hosted the tournament and won a highly charged final against Czechoslovakia by two goals to one. The Italian dictator Mussolini is still believed to have exerted nefarious pressure on the officials on that occasion. In 1938 the tournament moved to France and Italy again triumphed, this time over Hungary by four goals to two.

The tournament was suspended during the Second World War and did not resume till 1950, when it was held for the only time in Brazil with the final at the new Maracana Stadium. Brazil reached the last match, (not a final as such, because the tournament was played as a round robin) which it expected to win, and had already begun celebrating, but Uruguay upset everyone with a two-one victory.

In 1954 the competition returned to Europe to Switzerland and Hungary, with the famous golden team including Ferenc Puskas, the favourite after a string of scintillating performances. Once again the odds were overturned when West Germany reversed an eight-three defeat by Hungary in the qualifying matches to win the final by three goals to two after Hungary had led two-nil within ten minutes of the start.

The year 1958 saw the first appearance of a Brazilian youngster called Pele, who helped his team defeat the host team Sweden by five goals to two. In 1962 it was back to South America to Chile, where Brazil successfully defended its title beating Czechoslovakia three-one in the final.

England hosted the 1966 tournament and skipper Bobby Moore lifted the trophy at Wembley stadium after an incident packed extra-time victory over West Germany, in which Geoff Hurst scored the only hat-trick in a World Cup final so far. For 1970 the host was Mexico with the magnificent Azteca Stadium as the venue for the best final match ever when Brazil inspired by Pele, Carlos Alberto, Jairzinho and Gerson, beat Italy by four goals to one.

Jules Rimet handing the trophy to Dr. Paul Jude of Uruguay.

West Germany was the host for 1974 and once again the Germans overcame the pre-tournament favourite the Dutch total football team led by Johann Cruyff. Gerd Muller scored the winner after a penalty to each side had been converted earlier in the match. Australia reached the final tournament for the first time, but was drawn in a group which included the winner, the powerful East Germans, the only team to beat West Germany, and Chile.

Argentina was the venue for the 1978 competition which it duly won with the Dutch once again finishing as runner-up by three goals to one this time. In 1982 Spain hosted the tournament but it was Italy which won the trophy for the third time in its history, equalling Brazil's record, after a three-one win over West Germany.

Once again the 1986 tournament went to Mexico after Colombia withdrew, and this time Argentina came out on top with Germany second once again. A pulsating match ended three-two to the South Americans, after Germany had equalised with only eight minutes left. Maradona was a major influence on the tournament scoring one brilliant and one illegal goal against England and carrying his country to the title.

Italia 90 was expected to witness an Italian triumph, but the host country went out on penalties at the semi-final stage and Argentina played off against Germany. A single goal by Andreas Brehme from the penalty spot gave the title to Germany.

In 1994 to much surprise the tournament was awarded to the United States and Brazil came out on top for the fourth time after a scoreless final against Italy. The match was settled on penalty kicks and people will tend to remember the misses by Franco Baresi and Roberto Baggio rather than the brilliant play of these two stars in the preceding matches.

France hosted and won the 1998 tournament with a team which included the incomparable Zinedine Zidane, who scored twice in the final against a Brazil team in which Ronaldo was under the weather and only included at the last moment. In 2002 for the first time there were joint hosts, as Japan and South Korea staged the first competition held in Asia. This time Brazil came through to win against Germany. South Korea under Guus Hiddink reached the semi-final.

Of course in 2006 in Germany Australia qualified once again, going out in the Round of 16 to Italy, the eventual winner, by a last minute penalty. The final was notable for the expulsion of France's goalscorer Zidane for head-butting Marco Materazzi who replied for Italy, which came out on top on penalties.

WORLD CUP FINALS

1930 Uruguay v Argentina 4 - 2
1934 Italy v Czechoslovakia 2 - 1
1938 Italy v Hungary 4 - 2
1950 Uruguay v Brazil 2 - 1
1954 West Germany v Hungary 3 - 2
1958 Brazil v Sweden 5 - 2
1962 Brazil v Czechoslovakia 3 - 1
1966 England v West Germany 4 - 2
1970 Brazil v Italy 4 - 1
1974 West Germany v Netherlands 2 - 1
1978 Argentina v Netherlands 3 - 1
1982 Italy v West Germany 3 - 1
1986 Argentina v West Germany 3 - 2
1990 West Germanyv Argentina 1 - 0
1994 Brazil v Italy 0 - 0 (3-2 pens)
1998 France v Brazil 3 - 0
2002 Brazil v Germany 2 - 0
2006 Italy v France 1- 1 (5 - 3 pens)

Words by Roy Hay
Photos sourced by Roy Hay

Maradona single handedly steered Argentina to honours in 1986.

Pele and The Boys from Brazil triumph in 1970 .

Zinedine Zidane and The Les Blues wooed the world with their silky skills in 1998.

COUCH POTATO

This week's football television & radio listings.

The Victorian Football Show
Every Wednesday C31 8pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday C31 10.30am

FOX SPORTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
Tues Apr 28 **Newcastle v Portsmouth**
4.55 am Fox Sports 2
Sat May 2 **Middlesbrough v Man United**
9.40 pm Fox Sports 3
Sat May 2 **Chelsea v Fulham**
11.55 pm Fox Sports 3
Sat May 2 **Manchester City v Blackburn**
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat May 2 **Portsmouth v Arsenal**
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat May 2 **Stoke v West Ham**
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat May 2 **Tottenham v West Brom**
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sun May 3 **Liverpool v Newcastle**
10.25 pm Fox Sports 1
Mon May 4 **Sunderland v Everton**
12.55 am Fox Sports 1
Tues May 5 **Aston Villa v Hull** 4.55 am Fox Sports 3

COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP
Tues Apr 28 Norwich v Reading 4.30 am Fox Sports 1
Mon May 4 Final Day Of Season 5.00 am Fox Sports 2 (DELAY)

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - Matchday No 5
Tues May 5 **Pohang v Central Coast** 1.55 pm Fox Sports 3
Wed May 6 **Newcastle v Beijing Guoan** 7.30 pm Fox Sports 3

SETANTA SPORTS

Monday 27th April
2:30pm Eredivisie **Ajax vs AZ**
4:15pm Ligue 1 **Lille vs Marseille**

Tuesday 28th April
4:30am Blue Square Premier League **Torquay Utd vs Burton Albion**
4:15pm Russian Premier League **CSKA Moscow vs Rostov**

Wednesday 29th April
4:00am National Football League Div 1 Final **Derry vs Kerry**
5:30am National Football League Div 2 Final **Cork vs Monaghan**

Thursday 30th April
3:30am MUTV: EPL Reserves **Man Utd vs Sunderland** LIVE
10:45am Copa Libertadores **LDU Quito vs Sport** LIVE

Friday 1st May
4:00am Blue Square Playoff Semi-Final 1st Leg **Teams TBC** LIVE

Saturday 2nd May
4:00am Blue Square Playoff Semi-Final 1st Leg **Teams TBC** LIVE
8:30pm Scottish Premier League **Aberdeen vs Celtic** LIVE
11:30pm Bundesliga **Wolfsburg vs Hoffenheim** LIVE

Sunday 3rd May
5:00am Ligue 1 **Marseille vs Toulouse** LIVE

Monday 4th May
0:30am SPL **Rangers vs Hearts** LIVE
5:00am Ligue 1 **Bordeaux vs Socahux** LIVE
12:45pm Bundesliga **Hamburg vs Hertha Berlin**
2:30pm Serie A **Udinese vs Atalanta**
4:15pm Serie A **Palermo vs Cagliari**
9:00pm Blue Square Playoff Semi-Final 2nd Leg **Teams TBC** LIVE

EMMA: A SUGGESTION THAT VICTORIAN SCHOOLS SHOULD JOIN IN

How pleasing it was to read the article by Emma Field in Goal! Weekly on Monday March 30th. We, as readers of Goal! Weekly, could see Emma's enthusiasm for the girls football and we fully concur.

The writer represents the Executive of Australia's two largest competitions; the high schools Fifteen years and Under knockout Series. They are the Bill Turner Cup (boys) and the Bill Turner Trophy 9 girls).

In 2008 these two competitions were played in the football states of Queensland, Northern NSW, NSW, ACT and the Northern areas of Victoria.

In 2008 there were 502 Cup entries and 451 for the Trophy. That showed over 8,000 girls played. Just for interest's sake, it meant that about 17,000 school students played.

Victoria must have many top football (soccer) schools, both State and Private, who would give both competitions a shake.

Of course to make progress, just as all the other States had to do, Victoria would be served well to have a State manager and Area managers with administrative qualities. Their genuine interest in the code certainly helps.

How good it would be in 2010 to see Victoria schools reach the final series held in September on the ground of the Northern NSW State League Club, Edgeworth Eagles, Lake Macquarie CC near Newcastle.

Then, imagine a final between Cairns and Happy Valley High School from along the Great Ocean Road.

We were told about happy Valley High on April 1.

Recently the Executive received calls from interested schools in Tasmania.

The Executive partly agrees with Emma's third paragraph because the Cup and Trophy are actually for students Fifteen years & Under. This action was taken because many senior school players have already been aligned to State or Area Clubs in various divisions.

Shortly, more information will be available on the website:
www.billturnersoccer.com.au

Words by Owen Charlton
Photos by Bill Turner

Bill Turner Trophy action from last year's final where Westfields Sports High [NSW] defeated Hunter Sports High [Northern NSW] 2-1.

WAG OF THE WEEK

Anara Atanes Age: 24
Insignificant other: Sunderland Midfielder, Kieran Richardson

FOOTBALL QUOTES

Interviewer : 'Would it be fair to describe you as a volatile player?'
DAVID BECKHAM : 'Well, I can play in the centre, on the right and occasionally on the left side.'

Credit card application form question: 'What is your position at the company?'
Jason McAteer's (self-confirmed) response : 'Right back.'

'We've watched them twice, and seen a few videos. I didn't see them 38 times though, like McCarthy says he watched us. I don't think that's possible. I did my maths you see. That's 38 times 90 minutes - that's two months and the draw was only three weeks ago!"
- GEORGES LEEKENS

'We just ran out of legs.'
- **DAVID PLEAT**

'At the start of the season you're strong enough to win the Premiership and the European Cup, but you have to be as strong in March, when the fish are down' **- GIANLUCA VIALLI**

'I was inbred into the game by my father.' **- DAVID PLEAT**

'We have run a marathon and fallen just short so we need to boost the squad to get us over that final hurdle'
- JOHN RUDGE

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MATT SANDERS

GREEN GULLY FC

FULL NAME: Mathew Sanders
BIRTHPLACE: Hobart, Tasmania
BIRTH DATE: 17/01/86
HEIGHT: 185cm
WEIGHT: 82kg
MARRIED: Engaged
CAR: Rav 4
OCCUPATION OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL: Storeman at Blundstones
NICKNAME: Colonel
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Metro, Glenorchy Knights in Tasmania
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Tasmanian State teams
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Ryan Giggs
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Wayne Rooney
FAVOURITE VPL PLAYER: John Adam
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Paul Wade
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Winning the championship in Tassie with Glenorchy Knights
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Australia vs Japan at the World Cup
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: First VPL goal
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Watching my Dad play
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Playing with Dean Fak
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing in the final series last year
WORST INJURY: None yet, touch wood
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Any defender
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Bob Jane Stadium
SUPERSTITIONS: None
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Pasta
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: None that I'm aware of
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Heading
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Manchester United
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: AFL, cricket
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Chris Judd
FAVOURITE FOODS: Steak and seafood
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Denzel Washington
HOBBIES: PS3
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Any holiday is good
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Crown Casino
IDEAL DATE: My partner, of course
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: The Simpsons, Footy Show
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Rock
FAVOURITE FILM: The Green Mile
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Man United
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: Heard I could kick with my right foot
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Parents
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Pre-season
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To win every game we play
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Pele
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: Green Gully, of course!

Photo by Steve Starek

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MARK'S MANIFESTOS

FFV CEO Comes Clean On Local Football's Hot Topics

FFV CEO Mark Rendell speaks exclusively to Goal!Weekly's Chris Aloi about the VPL, FFV's plans for the future, and the challenges that confront the sport.

On the day you were announced as the new FFV CEO in March 2007, you said, and I quote 'The sport of football is entering a golden age at the moment in Victoria and across Australia'. In your opinion, two years on, is Victorian football currently experiencing this 'golden age' you spoke of that day?

If you look at the indicators of the sport, across the whole sport, it's in an extremely healthy and vibrant position. We had 18% growth last year, we turned 10,000 kids away who we couldn't accommodate. We've got a national body that is strong and viable, leading the sport in the right direction. We've got a national team that is going to qualify for the World Cup and a second A-League team in Victoria in the not too distant future. We've got a viable national women's league and there's interest in the sport across all demographics. All those things show the sport is going in the right direction and it will achieve it's outcome as being one of the top two or three sports in Victoria. Of course, it still has it's challenges, internally there are some areas that need to be worked on, and we're keen to work on them with the stakeholder groups.

The FFV Strategic Plan 2008-2011 is the blueprint for the future of the sport in this state. Your first major task when appointed CEO was the development and delivery of the plan's vision. In general terms, are you satisfied with the delivery of the plan thus far?

Yes. The plan's a very ambitious plan with a number of key objectives that we're looking to achieve are we're working towards that. There's still a lot of work to do, and the plan should be measured by it's outcome in 2011, not just after the first 12 months after it's inception. But so far we're tracking pretty well. We introduced Small Sided Games last year for 5-8 year olds and we had a 20% increase in number of clubs and number of participants in that age bracket. The Summer League was introduced for juniors and women, and we're in the review of that, but to get 91 teams up and running in the Summer League is fantastic. It proved very beneficial from a player, coach and referree development point of view. The review of that will lead to the junior and women's Summer League being bigger and better in year two.

So you were happy with season one of the Summer League?

Yes. It was challenging in terms of getting it up and running in such a short period of time, there was a lot of hard work done by staff as well as volunteers in the zones. In general, the sport can be proud of whad it did and what it achieved in year one. We've got surveys out there with players, parents, coaches and referees and the feedback we're receiving has been very positive.

The Plan states the Federations aim for the upcoming Summer League season 09/10 to have a Elite Men's semi-professional division. Will this still occur?

The FFV board has a strategic workshop coming up in early May where they'll be looking at the semi-professional men's side of it, and how that can work in with the Premier League in winter time. It's fair to say there are a number of challenges that need to be overcome to ensure that there is a strong and viable summer and winter league.

How will the FFV be financing the proposed new league?

Well, that's what the Board is going to be looking at, how best to do it. I think it's fair to say that we need to review that in line with what's best for the winter Premier League as well, to make sure that if there is a Summer League, it's complimentary to the winter Premier League and they don't compete against each other. But there needs to be a lot of work and effort put in to working out the best model for that going forward.

Will it be up to the clubs' within each zone to all chip in and run and finance their zone's team in the proposed new competition?

That's still a model that should be explored, but it may not be the only model that needs to be looked at going forward, if a Summer League is to be introduced at a semi-professional level.

The plan states that, as opposed to the junior sides in the Summer League, that the proposed semi-pro Summer League clubs will not be required to field players from their respective geographic zone. Do you accept that this has fuelled fears in the football community that the VPL as we currently know it is basically on borrowed time as far as being the number one competition in the State?

No, I don't accept that. We've always said we want strong and viable winter and summer competitions. We accept that the VPL clubs have a number of concerns and we're doing a review of the winter Premier League. We've engaged Ken Jacobs, who is a former CEO of Cricket Victoria, his role is to work with the clubs to do a review of the winter premier league, to work with them on the issues, particularly the off-field issues about how we can ensure the viability of the clubs and the viablility of the league. We're very keen to be open and transparent and working with the clubs in thsoe areas. We encourage the clubs to meet with Ken, the idea of having Ken involved is to have someone independent in there to ensure they were willing to discuss all the real issues that they're facing.

The Plan states that it's vision is to have a Summer competition which by 2011 will be considered the "strongest state-level competition in Australia". Is the FFV on track to deliver that outcome? Do you think this vision has undermined the legitimacy of the VPL as the premier second tier competition in Australia?

The Summer League competition is not just about the men semi-professional competition. We're talking about the pathway programs for our juniors, to ensure we give the opportunity to Victorian boys and girls to achieve their goals within the sport, also to develop coaches and referees. So it's a lot more holistic than just the semi-proffesional league, and as I said, we'll do that review with the winter Premier League. We want the clubs to actively work with that in good faith and tell us what's good and what's bad about the current league and consult with them about any professional Summer League before we go anywhere further with it.

The FFV's CEO Mark Rendell at the Victorian Premier League season launch held at the Young and Jackson's Hotel in February.

The VPL, in the past few years, has had two different multinational companies as the competitions' naming rights sponsor. Why is there no longer a naming rights sponsor?

Foxtel's sponsorship of the FFV concluded in early 2009. We are currently in the market place for a new sponsor. We're always in the marketplace for sponsors of the sport. It's fair to say it's a challenging time at the moment, companies are tightening their belts, and one of the first things to tighten is sponsorships. It's interesting to note that the VFL don't have a major partner for their league at the moment. When companies tighten their belts, it's the second tier sports the generally suffer the most. But in saying that our budgets and our delivery of the Premier League haven't changed just because we don't have a major sponsor at the moment.

So, the FFV can't attract a naming rights sponsor for it's elite mens' competition, how can the FFV expect the clubs to fund additional semi-professional teams in the proposed Summer Competition?

Obviously the economic climate needs to be factored in to everything that we're doing. We're not going to start up a league that's not viable. We're not going to modify a league if we can't make that viable as well. We want to make sure that everything is done on good advice and with all the facts in front of us.

Is the FFV confident that the men's semi-pro Summer league will be viable?

Well, before it was introduced, the Board would need to be comfortable that it was.

There has been criticism of lack of the marketing of the VPL by the FFV this season. There is no longer any meaningful coverage of the competition in the major daily papers nor a dedicated league website. Why is this?

In the next two or three weeks we're launching a new website, and part of that website is ensuring there is a dedicated Premier League site, with it's own web address. So people should watch this space. That will hopefully be a platform for us to sell the Premier League to sponsors. In terms of the daily papers, it's always a challenge to get stories in the Herald Sun or the Age. When you've got so much international football with Australians participating in it, that gets space in front of the local competition.

We held a marketing workshop with the clubs in January this year, unfortunately only five of the 12 clubs turned up. But we continue to work with the clubs and we've got a couple of good initiatives that clubs have come forward with, like Green Gully's event in Bendigo against Heidelberg and Hume City's ANZAC Day clash. We've got right behind them and done whatever we can to support them.

So you are satisfied with the FFV's level of marketing of the VPL specifically?

We are always willing to work with the clubs. We are always trying to lift the profile of the sport overall, not just the VPL. In a landscape that's dominated by AFL it's always a challenge. Good ideas are supported by us and we've got our own good ideas for promoting the sport. The sport has grown so much that the clubs are struggling to meet demand. The biggest challenge football in Victoria faces , by a long shot, is ensuing we've got appropriate facilities to meet demand. We believe over 10, 000 children were turned away last year due to lack of facilities. We need to ensure that everyone who wants to play the sport can, and what that does is increases the base of the sport and the interest in the sport and it has a flow on effect for the other leagues, including the Premier League.

Can you give readers of Goal!Weekly an indication, a ball park figure, of FFV's annual budget for marketing and promotion of the VPL specifically?

I don't have the exact figures in front of me, but we put more resources into the Premier League than any other competition that we run.

Can you guarantee that the FFV will continue to operate a semi-professional Elite mens competitions in the autumn and winter months?

There's been no discussion about changing dates or changing times, from an internal point of view or at Board level.

The FFV aimed, in the Plan, to have developed a "safety net of cash assets" of $2.5m by 2011. It also states that in 2008 the FFV wanted to "launch a minimum of five short-medium term stand alone and joint venture new business initiatives" . What were these ventures, and was that target reached?

It's fair to say that that target was one of the ones that wasn't reached to it's full capacity. We're looking at a number of different ventures to generate new revenue. Some of those involve looking at some online retail opportunities to ensure that those involved in the sport have the ability to buy the products they need, and Futsal. We believe there are opportunities to get more futsal players to generate more revenue for the sport.

The Plan states one of the objectives is - " to improve the case to demonstrate the level of demand that exists so that local government can plan and allocate the supply of suitable facilities" How are things on that front?

We conducted some independent research into the demand issues of the sport. We've employed a government relationship manager to work with local and state governments to address the issues and make sure football's priorities are included when governements are delivering sporting facilites. There are currently 9 synthetic pitches being built this year, some are close to completion. We've actively worked with the State Government and their Synthetic Pitch program. By far the biggest beneficiary of that has been football, and that's due in part the work we've put in.

The $3000 cap on transfer fees paid to state league clubs by A-League teams has been questioned. In an interview you gave in May 2008 you said it was on the agenda. Any progress on this issue?

When we discuss issues with FFA it's always one of the issues we raise regularly. If you look at the challenges the FFA has with some of the A-League clubs at the moment, I don't think there's a willingness for them to change that at the current time.

Do you believe that this cap is hindering clubs in Victoria?

I think clubs shouldn't build their revenue around transfer fees. It should probably be seen as the cream at the top if it does come through. Clubs can benefit from transfer fees through training compensation. Vince Grella's junior club in Springvale will benefit from his recent transfer from Italy to England.

But you do accept that, worldwide, transfer fees are one of the main revenue sources for semi and fully professional clubs?

Yes, I accept that how it works worldwide. But there's a national framework, and clubs need to work within that framework set by FFA. Clubs should be structuring their delivery of the sport around that.

Given the work you've put in to develop pathways for juniors in Victoria, do you think this issue undermines that? Wouldn't clubs be more inclined to sell their promising young players overseas for a more substantial fee?

Well, FIFA has rules in place at the moment that you can't transfer internationally until you're 18, unless the parents move there for work reasons.

But I'm sure you're aware that such occurrences aren't uncommon? Aren't those players likely to be the more promising juniors?

I'm sure that does occur. But it's probably worth talking to the PFA about that. They've got stats on players who make it to senior national level and the history shows that the ones that make it go through the pathways. The percentages of the ones that make it are the ones who go through their member federations and FFA pathways. Very few players make it by not following that pathway, so we'd encourage all parents and clubs to support that pathway because it is the best way for talented players to achieve their goals.

Thanks for your time Mark.

Interview By Chris Aloi
Photo by Daniel Flis

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE NW 2 - SEASON 2009

goal! weekly

Round 1
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Watsonia Heights 2 - 3 Moreland Utd Gabonia Res
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing 3 - 3 Darebin Utd Grange Res
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Bell Park 1 - 4 Avondale Heights Bell Park Sports Club
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Collingwood City 5 - 2 Plenty Valley Lions DISC
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM North City Lions 1 - 2 Epping City Wallace Res
Sat 28 Mar KO 7:00PM Melbourne Tornado 1 - 3 West Preston DISC - Pitch 2

Round 2
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM West Preston 1 - 1 North City Lions Oulton Res
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions 2 - 1 Melbourne Tornado LE Cotchin Res
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Collingwood City 2 - 1 Avondale Heights Kevin Bartlett Res
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Darebin Utd 1 - 4 Bell Park Mayer Park
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Epping City 1 - 1 Watsonia Heights Harvest Home Res - Synthetic
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Moreland Utd 1 - 2 Hoppers Crossing Moomba Park Res

Round 3
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing 0 - 0 Watsonia Heights Grange Res
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Bell Park 0 - 3 Moreland Utd Bell Park Sports Club
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Darebin Utd 1 - 1 Collingwood City Mayer Park
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Melbourne Tornado 1 - 6 Avondale Heights Newmarket Res
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM North City Lions 5 - 0 Plenty Valley Lions Wallace Res
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM West Preston 3 - 2 Epping City Oulton Res

Round 4
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions 2 - 2 West Preston LE Cotchin Res
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Avondale Heights 3 - 1 North City Lions Doyle Street Res
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Darebin Utd v Melbourne Tornado Mayer Park
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Epping City 3 - 1 Hoppers Crossing Duffy Street Res
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Collingwood City 0 - 1 Moreland Utd Kevin Bartlett Res
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Watsonia Heights 2 - 2 Bell Park Gabonia Res

Round 5
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Bell Park v Hoppers Crossing Bell Park Sports Club
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Watsonia Heights v Collingwood City Gabonia Res
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Melbourne Tornado v Moreland Utd Newmarket Res
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM North City Lions v Darebin Utd Wallace Res
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM West Preston v Avondale Heights Oulton Res
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions v Epping City LE Cotchin Res

Round 6
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Plenty Valley Lions Doyle Street Res
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Darebin Utd v West Preston Mayer Park
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Epping City v Bell Park Duffy Street Res
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Moreland Utd v North City Lions Moomba Park Res
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Watsonia Heights v Melbourne Tornado Gabonia Res
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v Collingwood City Grange Res

Round 7
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Collingwood City v Bell Park Kevin Bartlett Res
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Melbourne Tornado v Hoppers Crossing Newmarket Res
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM North City Lions v Watsonia Heights Wallace Res
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM West Preston v Moreland Utd Oulton Res
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions v Darebin Utd LE Cotchin Res
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Epping City Doyle Street Res

Round 8
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Darebin Utd v Avondale Heights Mayer Park
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Collingwood City v Epping City Kevin Bartlett Res
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Moreland Utd v Plenty Valley Lions Moomba Park Res
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Watsonia Heights v West Preston Gabonia Res
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v North City Lions Grange Res
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Bell Park v Melbourne Tornado Bell Park Sports Club

Round 9
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Melbourne Tornado v Collingwood City Newmarket Res
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM North City Lions v Bell Park Wallace Res
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM West Preston v Hoppers Crossing Oulton Res
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions v Watsonia Heights LE Cotchin Res
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Moreland Utd Doyle Street Res
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Darebin Utd v Epping City Mayer Park

Round 10
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Melbourne Tornado v Epping City Newmarket Res
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Moreland Utd v Darebin Utd Moomba Park Res
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v Plenty Valley Lions Grange Res
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Bell Park v West Preston Bell Park Sports Club
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Collingwood City v North City Lions Kevin Bartlett Res
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Watsonia Heights v Avondale Heights Gabonia Res

Round 11
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM North City Lions v Melbourne Tornado Wallace Res
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM West Preston v Collingwood City Oulton Res
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions v Bell Park LE Cotchin Res
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Hoppers Crossing Doyle Street Res
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Darebin Utd v Watsonia Heights Mayer Park
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Epping City v Moreland Utd Duffy Street Res

Round 12
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Moreland Utd v Watsonia Heights Moomba Park Res
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Darebin Utd v Hoppers Crossing Mayer Park
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Bell Park Doyle Street Res
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions v Collingwood City LE Cotchin Res
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM West Preston v Melbourne Tornado Oulton Res
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Epping City v North City Lions Duffy Street Res

Round 13
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM North City Lions v West Preston Wallace Res
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Melbourne Tornado v Plenty Valley Lions Newmarket Res
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Collingwood City Doyle Street Res
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Bell Park v Darebin Utd Bell Park Sports Club
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Watsonia Heights v Epping City Gabonia Res
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v Moreland Utd Grange Res

Round 14
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Watsonia Heights v Hoppers Crossing Gabonia Res
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Moreland Utd v Bell Park Moomba Park Res
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Collingwood City v Darebin Utd Kevin Bartlett Res
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Melbourne Tornado Doyle Street Res
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions v North City Lions LE Cotchin Res
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Epping City v West Preston Duffy Street Res

Round 15
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM West Preston v Plenty Valley Lions Oulton Res
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM North City Lions v Avondale Heights Wallace Res
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Melbourne Tornado v Darebin Utd Newmarket Res
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v Epping City Grange Res
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Moreland Utd v Collingwood City Moomba Park Res
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Bell Park v Watsonia Heights Bell Park Sports Club

Round 16
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v Bell Park Grange Res
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Collingwood City v Watsonia Heights Kevin Bartlett Res
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Moreland Utd v Melbourne Tornado Moomba Park Res
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Darebin Utd v North City Lions Mayer Park
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Avondale Heights v West Preston Doyle Street Res
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Epping City v Plenty Valley Lions Duffy Street Res

Round 17
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions v Avondale Heights LE Cotchin Res
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM West Preston v Darebin Utd Oulton Res
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Bell Park v Epping City Bell Park Sports Club
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM North City Lions v Moreland Utd Wallace Res
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Melbourne Tornado v Watsonia Heights Newmarket Res
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Collingwood City v Hoppers Crossing Kevin Bartlett Res

Round 18
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Bell Park v Collingwood City Bell Park Sports Club
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v Melbourne Tornado Grange Res
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Watsonia Heights v North City Lions Gabonia Res
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Moreland Utd v West Preston Moomba Park Res
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Darebin Utd v Plenty Valley Lions Mayer Park
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Epping City v Avondale Heights Duffy Street Res

Round 19
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Darebin Utd Doyle Street Res
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Epping City v Collingwood City Duffy Street Res
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions v Moreland Utd LE Cotchin Res
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM West Preston v Watsonia Heights Oulton Res
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM North City Lions v Hoppers Crossing Wallace Res
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Melbourne Tornado v Bell Park Newmarket Res

Round 20
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Collingwood City v Melbourne Tornado Kevin Bartlett Res
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Bell Park v North City Lions Bell Park Sports Club
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v West Preston Grange Res
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Watsonia Heights v Plenty Valley Lions Gabonia Res
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Moreland Utd v Avondale Heights Moomba Park Res
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Epping City v Darebin Utd Duffy Street Res

Round 21
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Epping City v Melbourne Tornado Duffy Street Res
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Darebin Utd v Moreland Utd Mayer Park
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions v Hoppers Crossing LE Cotchin Res
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM West Preston v Bell Park Oulton Res
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM North City Lions v Collingwood City Wallace Res
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Watsonia Heights Doyle Street Res

Round 22
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Melbourne Tornado v North City Lions Newmarket Res
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Collingwood City v West Preston Kevin Bartlett Res
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Bell Park v Plenty Valley Lions Bell Park Sports Club
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v Avondale Heights Grange Res
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Watsonia Heights v Darebin Utd Gabonia Res
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Moreland Utd v Epping City Moomba Park Res

Draw Notes:
CATCH-UP ROUNDS - 6th June 20KO & 12 September 20KO - Clubs will be notified by FFV of matches to be played on this weekend during the course of the season.

CLUBS ARE ADVISED TO VERIFY THEIR FIXTURES REGULARLY VIA RESULTS VAULT AND THE FFV WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE SEASON.

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

With Mark Boric

BOO'S WORLD

The lights have gone out on the Mirabella sponsorship of Melbourne Victory. In a bright development for the Melbourne Heart bid for the second Melbourne team, millionaire businessman Joe Mirabella is bringing his financial support to them and becoming a director.

That's watt is happening on the Heart front this week, I hope this has been very illuminating.

Well I am told it did indeed rain heavily as Green Gully and Heidelberg United took VPL football to Bendigo, but Tom Flood Reserve held out from err, flooding and the game was able to go ahead, the Bergers emerging triumphant by two goals to nil.

Game of the Round had to be at Kevin Bartlett Reserve where the lead changed three times as Dandenong Thunder defeated Richmond in front of a large and appreciative crowd. Some cracking goals from Erhan Karahan and Sam Bailey make this a match well worth checking out on Channel 31's The Victorian Football Show on Wednesday.

Could the next football team Milissa Fischer tries to get into the A-League be her prison team? The Wentworth Mean Machine for the Women's A-League could be on the cards given the Herald-Sun's latest reports on the collapse of her company Kendalle Pty Ltd owing $23 million. Allegation now include debt to the Australian Taxation Office, misappropriation of Government grants, non-payment of employee entitlements and threatening a former staff member with rape and murder.

Poor week for Aussies taking penalties on the international stage, with Timmy Cahill missing in Everton's FA Cup semi-final shoot-out and Sasho Petrovski failing to convert for Newcastle Jets against Nagoya Grampus in the Asian Champions League. John Aloisi can now turn to those that malign him by saying all he ever did was convert a simple penalty and point out it obviously isn't as easy as it looks.

Asian football comes to Victoria tomorrow night with Melbourne Knights hosting Beijing Guoan in a friendly at Mansion Stadium kicking off at 7 p.m. I wonder if the Asian gambling sites will be taking bets on this contest? Is his the real reason behind this midweek fixture?

Perth Glory are apparently trying to sign Alvaro Recoba. The Uruguayan star is their major target, with the back-up plan being re-signing Steve McMahon Jnr.

Right: Uruguay's Recoba in action against the Socceroos in Sydney back in June 2007.

With George Katsamboukas

KATSA'S KORNER

The Scorer has finally been awoken from his slumber and been forced into activity as the second wicket within as many weeks has fallen in the Premier League.

The latest addition to the stats sheet is none other than Zoran "In The Game" Trajkovski. He and Preston are no longer an item, and Zoran seems to be now, "out of the game"

His replacement, Zeljko Gagula, will certainly have his job cut out if he is going to get them to survive. Gagula though, is an old school survivor from the St Albans Saints when they were mighty, so expect a bit of fire in the belly to raise its head at Connor Reserve.

Speaking of Coach's, those who are unemployed at the minute, here is a tip from Katsa.

Have your mobiles fully charged around 5.30 pm on Saturdays, as you may receive a call from a Club Powerbroker offering you work.

Remember, you can charge double your usual rate, as some Clubs are destined to the Westgate already, and if you are convincing enough, the K'ching sound will become very familiar on a weekly basis.

One such lucky unemployed Coach received an SOS call from his ex Club straight after another loss.

I believe that he knocked it back.

Over to the House of Darebin we go, where the good folk there now have increased powers over disciplinary matters.

On the strength of a referees report, Clubs will now be fined/suspended and or slapped on the wrist for their indiscretions.

Gone are the days of Tribunal'. The good folk at the House of Darebin are now Judge, Jury and Executioners.

Appeals are allowed, but it seems that the Psychologist's Registration Board in so longer the venue of choice for these matters to be heard.

The new Venue is now at the Dallas Brooks Hall; scene of many a good concert and Trade Union Meetings in days gone by.

Players and Club Powerbrokers beware, abuse both physical and verbal will not be tolerated against my good buddy's, the Men in Black, and some of the penalties being dished out range from long suspensions to hefty fines.

It is interesting when a Coach cops a suspension, in that he is technically not allowed to Coach his team.

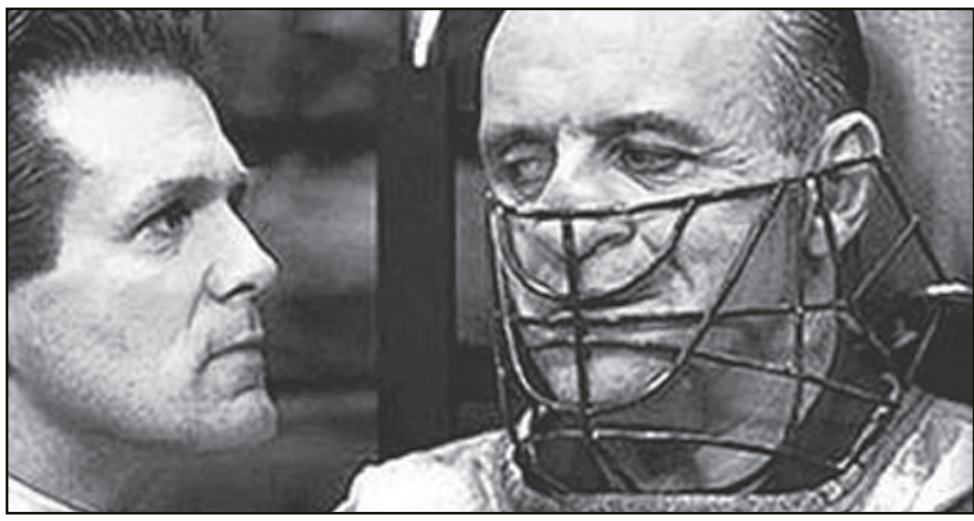
Problem solved though, as the Men in Black cannot see who is in the rooms addressing the players before the game, and at half time, and there is nothing stopping the coach watching and coaching his team, as long as he is behind the fence and not on the bench.

Whilst on the topic of Coach's, the knives are being sharpened for a few of them in State 1, at both ends of the ladder!

Stay tuned….

Over to the Premier League we go, where the Dandenong Thunder juggernaut continues to march on.

Last week, they took care of business at the Home of the States finest Black Forest Cake, where they defeated Richmond in the top of the table clash.



Dr. Lector confers with his assistant coach prior to the half time team talk. Something about "go out there and eat 'em alive"....

Undefeated after 8 rounds, it will be interesting to see if the dream run continues.

Over to Old Trafford we go, where Sir Alex absolutely mauled his players at half time, where they were losing 2-0 to Tottenham.

His spray certainly did the trick, where the United Boys came out and scored 5.

I have witnessed many Coach's outbursts over the years, however the one that will always be remembered happened around 20 years ago, where Coach, Assistant Coach and Team Manager absolutely destroyed an entire dressing room after their team lost.

Great scenes of water bottles, cordial containers and whatever else that they could get their hands on going flying around the room.

Seems that these days are gone, and are now being replaced with absolute silence after a loss, with the standard line being, we will chat about it on Tuesday.

On a serious note, wishing Sammy Poutakidis a speedy recovery from a recent accident that will probably see him out of the game for the rest of this season.

Till next week…..

This is Katsa – Just as you've known him.

Coach Toll

Last Year	This Year
2 - 8	2 - 8
Outs - Weeks	Outs - Weeks

CHAMPS A DIME A DOZEN

Inter and Bergers Maintain Perfect Records

After Round 3 of the WPL, four teams remain undefeated, with two of those maintaining perfect records so far, and so it is these four teams that lead the way on the ladder.

Box Hill and Heidelberg share top spot, with Ashburton and Preston Lions hot on their heels. These teams were all victorious at the weekend, with the exception of Ashburton which was held to a draw by South Melbourne. In the round's other match, Casey Comets was also victorious. The league looks set to be tighter than ever this season, with all bar two of the teams having already registered at least a point.

Box Hill Inter secured its place at the top of the WPL ladder with a comprehensive victory over Keilor Park at Wembley Park on Friday night. The reigning premier ran riot over the league's bottom side, running out to a 5-1 lead by half time. The second half proved one-way traffic, with Inter scoring a further seven unanswered goals after the interval. Lauren Farrugia had a real day out, scoring seven times for the home side, with Aleksandra Sinclair bagging two, and single goals from Melissa Barbieri, Angela Durston-Ryan and Amanda Lawless. Sheridan Sikic was on target for Keilor. The result lifts Box Hill to the top of the ladder on goal difference, while Keilor remains anchored to the bottom, already with an unenviable negative goal difference.

Preston Lions broke its string of draws with its first victory of the season, accounting for GRFA at Howard Glover Reserve. The first half was a fairly even affair, with Brittany Elsen scoring for GRFA, while the visiting side managed two goals. Preston, however, was able to maintain the upper hand, adding a further goal to secure the match 3-1. Casey Naumovski, Ellvana Curo and Jacquelene Ghirxi were all on target for Preston, which remains fourth on the ladder. GRFA is ninth on the ladder, still searching for its first point.

Heidelberg captain, Rita Mankowska, slides over the wet grass to tackle Emma Runnalls (Sandringham)

South Melbourne broke its goal-scoring drought and picked up its first point in a thrilling game against Ashburton at Bob Jane Stadium. Peta Lipec opened the scoring for the visiting side, before Aimee Benton scored South's first goal of the season to take the sides into the interval all square at one goal apiece. Ashburton gained the upper hand midway through the second half when Sarah Lovett scored, with Christine Pfeiffer seemingly putting the game beyond doubt minutes later. But South hit back almost immediately through Laura Spiranovic, before Marcela Marques snatched a share of the points with the last kick of the game. The draw means that Ashburton has dropped points for the first time this season, and it also ends a winning streak against South that stretched back to the 2005 season. Ashburton ends the round third on the ladder, with South in seventh.

Casey Comets registered its first victory of the season in emphatic fashion, defeating Bendigo Vipers by five goals at Comets Stadium. The home side raced to a 3-0 lead by half time, before adding a further two after the break, with Bendigo unable to find a response. Nicola Prins was Casey's key striker, scoring a hat-trick, with Melissa Atherton and Alexandra Gummer also on target. The result lifts Casey to fifth on the ladder, with four points to date, while Bendigo is one place further back, albeit with a game in hand.

Heidelberg United made it three wins from three, with an important victory over Sandringham at Olympic Village. In a tightly fought game, the first half finished goalless, but the home side was able to gain the upper hand in the second half. Goals from Melanie Camilleri and Rita Mankowska secured the three points for United, and inflicted Sandringham's first defeat of the season. Despite the victory, Heidelberg drop to second on the ladder, due to Box Hill's superior goal difference. Sandringham is sixth, with one win and one loss so far, and it has a game in hand over the majority of the league's other participants.

There's plenty of action to come in the WPL, and Round 4 offers five matches over four days in the most spread out round of competition yet. The round once again begins on Friday night, with Box Hill Inter playing its second of three successive home matches. This Friday's opponent at Wembley Park is Heidelberg United in what should be a real blockbuster of a match. As well as being a rematch of last year's Grand Final, it pits the current top two sides on the ladder against each other, and should be a fiercely fought contest. On Saturday afternoon, Bendigo Vipers plays its first home game at Beischer Oval, when it takes GRFA in the battle of the two regional sides. On Sunday, Preston Lions hosts South Melbourne at BT Connor Reserve, while at Ashburton Park, Ashburton takes on Keilor Park. Then, in a new venture for the WPL, Monday night football comes to the competition, as Sandringham and Casey Comets do battle at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex.

Ashlee Good clears the lines for Sandringham. Others (from left) are Michelle Parton, Jolene Miller and Emma Runnalls

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Heidelberg Utd	3	3	0	0	17	0	9
Box Hill Inter	3	3	0	0	18	3	9
Ashburton	3	2	1	0	13	3	7
Preston Lions	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Casey Comets	3	1	1	1	6	3	4
Sandringham	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
South Melb	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Bendigo Vipers	2	0	1	1	1	6	1
GRFA	3	0	0	3	3	14	0
Keilor Park	3	0	0	3	2	32	0

WPL RESULTS

Box Hill Inter 12 (M Barbieri A Lawless A Sinclair 2 L Farrugia 7 AL Durston-Ryan) Keilor Park 1 (S Sikic), GRFA 1 (B Elsen) Preston Lions 3 (C Naumovski E Curo), South Melbourne 3 (A Benton L Spiranovic MJ Marques) Ashburton 3 (P Lipec S Lovett), Casey Comets 5 (M Atherton A Gummer NJ Prins 3) Bendigo Vipers 0, Heidelberg Utd 2 (M Camilleri R Mankowska) Sandringham 0

WPL ROUND 4

Box Hill Inter v Heidelberg Utd
Wembley Park
Fri 1 May KO 8:30PM

Bendigo Vipers v GRFA
Beischer Oval (Strathdale) - P2
Sat 2 May KO 2:45PM

Preston Lions v South Melbourne
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 3 May KO 1:00PM

Ashburton v Keilor Park
Ashburton Park
Sun 3 May KO 3:00PM

Sandringham v Casey Comets
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Mon 4 May KO 8:30PM

RESERVES

Heidelberg Utd 5 Keilor Park 1, South Melbourne 2 Box Hill Inter 1, Ashburton 8 GRFA 0, Preston Lions 0 Casey Comets 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Casey Comets	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
South Melb	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Box Hill Inter	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Heidelberg Utd	3	1	2	0	8	4	5
Ashburton	3	1	1	1	10	4	4
Sandringham	2	1	1	0	8	2	4
GRFA	3	1	0	2	2	10	3
Preston Lions	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Bendigo Vipers	2	0	1	1	1	5	1
Keilor Park	3	0	0	3	1	14	0

By Niki Cook

Photo by John Punshon

RAIDERS STORM OVER JETS!

Gale force winds and driving rain were the conditions dished up to teams in Round 7 of the FFSA Divine Homes Men's Super League.

While several games were cancelled due to pitch conditions, one game that weathered the storms was played out at the Croatian Sports Centre where Raiders buffeted Modbury Jets to the tune of 5-0.

Forward Mimi Saric had the perfect return to the game with a hatrick, with Rhys Townsend and captain Richie Alagich adding a goal each to the final result. The Jets faced up well for the first 20 minutes of the match, lead by the experience of David Crowl and Matthew Kelly in the centre of the pitch. Raiders then began to take hold of the match, playing against the wind, creating several chances to score throughout the 45 minutes.

Defender Todd McSorley again put in a solid performance in defence partnered by Dalibor Barisic, picking the gaps in the Jets midfield to pass on balls for their men up front. Raiders first goal came in the 36thminute, a great dispossessing tackle care of McSorley sent the ball to Townsend out wide, who passed onto for Saric to easily tap in past the Jets keeper Paul Riley. As referee Stephen Craggs blew the whistle for the half time break, Modbury will be left ruing the chances they did create, having several shots hitting the cross bar that would surely have seen them going in 2-1 up.

As the second half commenced, a huge weather front came in across the grounds, gale force winds and hail amongst the extreme weather that players had to contend with. Raiders seemed to revel in these extremities, adding another four goals in the last 20 minutes of the match. Modbury lost most of their structure in the second half, defensively being exposed on many occasions, leaving their keeper Riley to keep the scoreline respectable as he pulled off some brilliant reflex saves in close.

Best on the day for Raiders were Todd McSorley, Carl Coo and Mimi Saric and for Modbury ever consistent keeper Paul Reilly, A.Solagna and Dinko Arar. A jubilant Raiders coach John Duthie was happy with the win. "We outplayed and outmuscled the Jets for most of the match. The win was great especially with the adverse weather conditions but yet we were able to play some effective quality football like we have over the last few weeks".

The win puts the Raiders momentarily into second spot on the league ladder but will await the outcome of those matches still yet to be played while the loss now leaves Modbury as certain relegation contenders.

Sitting in fifth spot Charlie Villani's side Western Strikers were up against Carl Maynard's Adelaide Galaxy at home, the Galaxy getting their 3rd successive win in as many matches as they went on to a 1-0 victory, a penalty being slotted in by Osama Malik (Adelaide United Youth League) in the last stages of the match. With conditions not conducive to playing good quality football, the weather wasn't the only stormy aspect of the match, as both sides play a game that was full of high emotion.

Villani's and Maynard's teams challenged each other and played what was a fairly even first half, no one being able to break the scoreless drought. But a very different second half was played, both sides giving their all to grind out a win, the final 30 minutes of the match full of high tencity. Eventhough Galaxy player Evan Kounavelis was given a straight red for his indiscretions, Maynard's side continued matching it with Western Strikers albeit with the one man down. Then a late penalty awarded to Galaxy's Osama Malik as he was brought down in a one-on-one with the keeper, saw him step up and bury the spot kick for what was the winner.

Best for Strikers were newcomer Andy Thorpe, Josip Grgic and Alor Bulabek while for the Galaxy Toby Nelson, Zacki Malik and keeper Ryan Veitch were outstanding. Carl Maynard was delighted to take away the 3 points from the match. "It was not our prettiest performance but the conditions were horrible to play constructive football.

He lads kept trying to play and showed a tremendous will to win". The win catapults Galaxy into 7th place for the moments and they now go into the next round against Modbury Jets with some great form behind them.

Eighth place Para Hills Knights face one of their biggest challenges on Monday away to Adelaide City at Adelaide City Park Oakden. For coach Rob Ditroia, this may well be his most crucial match so far this season as a win will keep his side in the mix. As for Damian Mori's Adelaide City, the reigning champions also need a win as they sit in fifth place on 10 points, still 8 adrift from the perfect run of Adelaide Blue Eagles. The must win game for both sides looks to set this one up as a very exciting Monday night match.

The matches that were postponed were Campbelltown City vs MetroStars At Newton Village Sports Complex and Adelaide Hills vs Adelaide Blue Eagles at the Hawks Nest Woodside. These games will be re-scheduled at a later date.

By Nat Adamopoulos

Photo by Adam Butler

FFSA RESULTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Adelaide Blue Eagles	6	6	0	0	10	2	8	18
Raiders	7	3	3	1	13	9	4	12
MetroStars	6	3	2	1	7	4	3	11
Campbelltown	6	3	1	2	12	6	6	10
Adelaide City	6	3	1	2	10	5	5	10
Western Strikers	7	3	0	4	9	9	0	9
Adelaide Galaxy	7	2	1	4	6	12	-6	7
Para Hills	6	1	3	2	6	8	-2	6
Adelaide Hills	6	1	2	3	4	6	-2	5
Modbury	7	0	1	6	5	21	-16	1

Raiders 5 (M.Saric 3, R.Townsend, R.Alagich)
Modbury 0

Western Strikers 0
Adelaide Galaxy 1 (O.Malik)

Adelaide City vs Para Hills
Monday 27th April - 7:30pm
Adelaide City Park, Hilltop Road,

Let's get physical: Galaxy Captain Paul Karritevlis gets physical with Striker Daniella LaStella while Filipe Garcia (left) and Evan Kounavelis watch on.

OLYMPIC HOLD OFF STRIKERS

The Hyundai QSL continued this week with Round 7 taking place across the state. The highlights of the round saw Brisbane Strikers play host to Olympic FC in a top of the table tussle whilst third-placed QAS took on reigning premiers Sunshine Coast FC.

Bundaberg Spirit 1 (Matt Timbrell 42') - NQ Razorbacks 2 (Ramone Close 65', Joshua Searle 80')

2009 has so far proven a woeful season for Bundaberg sitting bottom of the ladder with a goal difference of –26 after only six rounds. Saturday night saw the arrival of NQ Razorbacks for Round 7 of the QSL and coach Ryan Mitchell was hopeful of securing a much needed result "If we can score a goal, it would be nice, but if we don't concede in the first twenty minutes, who knows what can happen"

After the return of Daniel Watson, Trent Searle and Andy Wood, Bundaberg looked much more solid as a unit and as Mitchell hoped managed to keep the Razorbacks goalless in the early stages. Proceedings began to look even more promising for the home side as Matt Timbrell struck just before half time to give Bundaberg the lead as they went in for the break.

The Razorbacks came out for the second half looking reinvigorated, pressing their opponents at every opportunity. It didn't take long for the increased pressure to produce results as Ramone Close scored in the 65th minute and the in-form Joshua Searle stole three points for the visitors with a late winner.

Brisbane Strikers 2 (Warren Moon 45', Adam Webber 57') - Olympic FC 3 (Shane Coffey 50', 69' (p), Cameron Saint 73')

Two goals to Shane Coffey - one being a penalty strike after a hotly disputed decision that saw Strikers captain Matt Smith sent off - and a header to Cameron Saint saw Olympic twice claw back a one goal deficit in a fast-paced and skilful encounter that kept a sizeable crowd engrossed until the final whistle.

The home side proved dominant for much of the first half keeping Olympic under extended pressure and their endeavour was rewarded on the stroke of half time as Warren Moon pounced on a loose ball in the Olympic box.

However only four minutes after the restart the visitors had found an equalizer. Shane Coffey made the most of some ordinary defending to score from cross, putting the ball past the Brisbane keeper in a one-on-one situation. The Strikers weren't done yet though and in the 57th minute Adam Webber went on a run through the Olympic defence before rounding the keeper to restore the lead.

That was to be the last bit of joy for the home side as twelve minutes later Brisbane captain Matt Smith was sent off for a trip on Adam Oar, from which Coffey promptly slotted the penalty to make it level once more. The scoring didn't end there though as Olympic defender Cameron Saint rose above the Brisbane defence to head home the winner from a corner in the 73rd minute.

Capricorn Cougars 0 - Redlands City Devils 3 (Danny Byrne 57', Russell Woodruffe 75' (p), Graham Fyfe 86')

Hosts Capricorn Cougars returned from a two-week layoff to take on the inconsistent Redlands City Devils at Jardine Park. The enforced break had clearly taken its toll as the home side looked sluggish, nothing at all like the side who had turned over competition heavyweight Sunshine Coast FC 3-0 two weeks earlier.

Redlands showed no mercy though committing themselves to attack whilst maintaining a high defensive line. Despite this the match only saw its first goal in the 57th minute after Danny Byrne took advantage of confusion in the Cougars defence. From there it was all Redlands with Russell Woodruffe and Graham Fyfe rounding off a deserved win.

FNQ Bulls 5 (Blake Cremer 25', 50', Alex Plowman 60', Dennis Allen 65', Anthony Mete 80') - Whitsunday Miners 1 (Daniel Scotton 78')

After becoming the only side this season to take points off league leaders Olympic FC last week, FNQ Bulls went into the match against the struggling Whitsunday Miners full of confidence. It was evident from kick-off that the home side were looking for victory, putting the Miners under pressure down the flanks, with several early crosses causing problems in the visitors defence. Blake Cremer was to prove the key man for the Bulls as he put the home side ahead in the 25th minute and then furthered the advantage after beating the goalkeeper once again in the 50th minute of play.

From there things only got worse for the visitors as Alex Plowman and Dennis Allen made it 4-0 within the next 15 minutes to effectively put the game beyond Whitsundays reach.

Queensland Academy of Sport vs Sunshine Coast FC – Sunday 26th April

Sunshine Coast travel to Richlands to play QAS in the round's late kick-off on Sunday night. The away team will be aiming for their first victory since round two, while the QAS are in form and full of confidence after their 6-0 win over Bundaberg Spirit last time out.

Last time these two sides met, Sunshine Coast prevailed 7-0 over the youngsters from the Academy but they will know they are no pushover this time around as QAS will be keen to keep hold of third place in the league.

By Jarrod Ellis

Photos by Brett McDonald

QSL STANDINGS

	G	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1 Olympic FC	7	6	1	0	23	5	18	19
2 Brisbane Strikers	6	5	0	1	18	5	13	15
3 NQ Razorbacks	6	4	0	2	13	10	3	12
4 Redlands C Devils	7	4	0	3	15	13	2	12
5 Queensland AoS	6	3	1	2	15	11	4	10
6 Logan United FC	6	2	2	2	11	11	0	8
7 FNQ Bulls	6	2	1	3	12	11	1	7
8 Sunshine Coast	6	2	1	3	10	10	0	7
9 Capricorn Cougars	6	2	0	4	9	17	-8	6
10 Whitsunday Miner	6	1	0	5	12	18	-6	3
11 Bundaberg Spirit	6	0	0	6	3	30	-27	0

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SUTHERLAND JOINS FRONT RUNNERS

Draws For Top Two Opens The Door For Chasing Pack

Sydney United's much-anticipated showdown with the Bonnyrigg White Eagles ended in a 1-1 draw at the Serbian Centre. Milorad Simonovic's early goal for the hosts was cancelled out by Elsid Barkhousir's header shortly before half-time, as the leaders conceded their first draw since Round 4. Mindful of the untoward events of 2005, Football NSW had decided that the game should be open to Bonnyrigg season ticket holders only, and a late change of time also helped to ensure that the match went off peacefully.

Second-placed Manly United failed to take advantage of the slip by Ante Milicic's men, drawing 1-1 at home to bottom-placed Wollongong. Although the defending champions had a man sent off, Manly only squared the match late in the piece, Joey Schirripa's free kick maintaining Manly's undefeated record.

The Sutherland Sharks, who have made an excellent recovery after their indifferent start to the season, moved level with Manly by defeating hosts APIA-Leichhardt 3-1. Last season's premiers now look set to play a significant role in the race for line honours in 2009 as well. Marconi are another side currently on a roll; they followed their demolition of Wollongong with a comfortable 2-0 win over the West Sydney Berries. Details below.

Sydney Olympic continued their revival under new coach Nick Theodorakopoulos, downing local rivals Bankstown City 2-1 at Belmore. Matthew Mayora and ex-Perth Glory midfielder Jordan Simpson got the goals for the Greek-backed side, who can join the leading pack with a win in their postponed game against Manly United, which is to be played on Wednesday.

In Sunday's other game, two mid-table sides in Penrith-Nepean and Blacktown City shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw at Cook Park.

West Sydney Berries 0-2 Marconi Stallions

Marconi maintained their pressure on the leaders with a smooth victory at Lidcombe Oval over the West Sydney Berries, whose 2009 prospects are looking bleaker with every game.

Buoyed by his side's thumping victory in Wollongong a week earlier, Lee Sterrey fielded an aggressive line-up against the Berries, and Marconi had much the better of the opening few minutes. Vuko Tomasevic's header from a free kick flew wide on nine minutes, and two minutes later an inspired run from Marconi's young Ivoiran midfielder Vamara Diarra was only blocked by a desperate tackle on the line. At the other end, a swift Berries counter ended with a shot for Ryan Jones on the left, but Wade Oostendorp was there to block it.

Marconi continued to dominate, with captain Nahuel Arrarte forcing a save from Hamish McLean on 20 minutes with a stinging right-footed volley. Four minutes later came a deserved goal for the away side: Diarra, having an influential first half, broke down the right and cut the ball back sharply; Matthew Gordon, sneaking in on the left, guided the ball home expertly.

The Berries were momentarily stirred out of their lethargy, and Kosta Lagoudakis sent a right-footed shot just over the bar soon after the restart. Marconi were quickly back on top, however, and the clever Arrarte stole into the box on 33 minutes to send a close-range left-footed shot at goal, which McLean did well to smother. Six minutes from half-time, the away team doubled their lead with a picture-book team goal. A sweeping move out of defence reached Gordon on the left, who sweetly exchanged passes with an overlapping Arrarte before firing a volley at goal: an unlucky deflection sent the ball beyond a hapless McLean, and Marconi went into the sheds 2-0 ahead.

In the second half, Marconi did not exert themselves unduly, and the Berries were simply toothless in attack. Ali Abbas, having a quiet game, should have made the score 3-0 when he was played through on goal in an inside-left position on 56 minutes, but he sent the ball into orbit with his right foot. Soon afterwards, the Iraqi was replaced by former Sydney FC striker Ben Vidaic, and the latter also had a chance to extend Marconi's lead on 75 minutes, his right-footed piledriver being deflected off a Berries defender into the side netting.

Six minutes from the close, the home side finally carved out a chance thanks to an error from Chris Nunes on the right, but Lagoudakis' left-footed strike was saved with ease by James Chronopoulos. Then the night got even worse for the Berries: diminutive right-back Johnny Fotiadis, already in the book following some earlier backchat, cynically fouled Alex Canak on a Marconi breakaway. Off he went, and Berries coach John Calleja, protesting loudly, also received his marching orders.

With a numerical advantage, Marconi thoroughly enjoyed the final minutes. Vidaic headed over on 87 minutes, and three minutes later another substitute, Erick Anabalon, forced McLean into a save after a sharp swivel and shot in the box. Vidaic, quickly onto the rebound, also found McLean on his mettle, the keeper tipping the ball onto the bar. From the resulting corner, another header from Vidaic was cleared off the line. It was a fitting end to a game which was utterly dominated by the away side.

FNSW RD 8 RESULTS

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1	Sydney United	8	6	2	0	18	5	13	20
2	Sutherland Sharks	8	4	3	1	17	8	9	15
3	Manly United FC	7	4	3	0	10	4	6	15
4	Marconi Stallions	8	4	2	2	18	7	11	14
5	Sydney Olympic	7	4	0	3	17	15	2	12
6	Penrith Nep Utd	8	3	3	2	10	10	0	12
7	Bankstown City	8	2	3	3	10	10	0	9
8	Blacktown City	8	2	3	3	6	11	-5	9
9	Bonnyrigg WE	8	1	4	3	10	15	-5	7
10	Sydney Tigers	8	2	0	6	10	16	-6	6
11	West Syd Berries	8	1	2	5	8	17	-9	5
12	Wollongong FC	8	1	1	6	7	23	-16	4

TELECHOICE PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 8: FIRST GRADE: Penrith Nepean United 1 (Benjamin Gough 20m) Blacktown City Demons 1 (Daniel Wilkinson 35m), Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 (Milorad Simonovic x 1) Sydney United 1 (Elsid Barkhousir x 1), Sydney Tigers 1 Sutherland Sharks 3 (Bradley Boardman x 2 Michael Katz x 1), Sydney Olympic 2 (Matthew Mayora 3m Jordan Simpson 43m) Bankstown City 1 (Stefanos Liavas 31m), Manly United FC 1 (Joseph Schirripa 84m) Wollongong FC 1 (Samet Kaynak 33m), West Sydney Berries 0 Marconi Stallions 2 (Matthew Gordon 25/40m).

By Mike Salter

In Sydney

STH HOBART & ZEBRAS PULL LEVEL

Knights Hit For Six, Somerset Smash Launceston

Four goals by Dwayne Walsh and two by Ben Crosswell powered Tilford Zebras to a 6-1 win over Glenorchy Knights at KGV Park on Friday night.

The win put Zebras on top of the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League ladder, but they dropped back to second place on goal-difference 24 hours later when South Hobart beat third-placed Clarence United 3-0 at Wentworth Park on Saturday night and resumed the leadership.

Two first-half strikes by Kostas Kanakaris and one by Jonathon Ladic gave South their win over Clarence in the first senior men's night match at Wentworth Park, which was played before the biggest league attendance this season.

Knights squandered the chance to take the lead against the Zebras when Amadu Koroma had a tame effort cleared off the line by Andrew Telega.

Zebras immediately took advantage of some poor defending to race to a 2-0 lead in the opening five minutes as Walsh and Crosswell both got off the mark.

Walsh made it 1-0 when he hammered home the loose ball, which was dropped at his feet by Knights goalkeeper Ben Peter, who was impeded in going for Jayden Welch's cross by team-mate Anthony Grundy.

Crosswell added the second when Knights failed to cut out a long ball forward by Henry Fagg.

Jade Clay pulled a goal back for the Knights in the 23rd minute, but Walsh restored the Zebras' two-goal buffer before the interval after good work down the left by Welch and Crosswell.

Walsh completed his hat-trick with a quickly-taken free-kick in the 78th minute, awarded for Grundy's foul on Crosswell, and then made it 5-1 nine minutes from the end with a fine finish after beating defender Jackson Marsh to Michael Connolly's deep cross from the left.

Crosswell completed the rout in the 85th minute, beating Alex Holmes to Ricky Self's cross from the byline on the right and heading powerfully past Peter.

South Hobart goalkeeper Ben Kruijver was the man-of-the-match against Clarence as he made at least five outstanding saves to deny the home side the chance of possibly snatching a point.

The visitors exploited deficiencies on the flanks as Liam Scott and Ricky Eaves made forward runs and set up team-mates with crosses.

Kanakaris made it 1-0 in the 12th minute after Scott's cross from the left, while Ladic headed the second in the 21st minute, converting Eaves's near-post cross from the right.

Kanakaris added the third on the half-hour, again from Scott's pass, to put South level on 16 points with Zebras but with a better goal-difference edging them ahead in the standings.

In the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League, Somerset smashed bottom-side Launceston United 11-0 on Saturday after leading 4-0 at half-time and moved from sixth to second place on the ladder.

Northern Rangers stayed top of the table with a 3-0 home win over second-last Launceston City on Saturday night at the NTCA ground.

Goals by Derek Schipper and Mark Ambrose gave Rangers a 2-0 lead at the break, while Paul Bremner added the third.

By Walter Pless

Photo by Walter Pless

The Glenorchy Knights squad 2009

TAS NORTHERN LEAGUE

	G	W	D	L	F	A	P
Northern Rangers	5	4	1	0	14	5	13
Somerset	5	3	0	2	19	7	9
Prospect Knights	3	2	1	0	10	2	7
Burnie United	4	2	0	2	11	8	6
Devonport City	3	2	0	1	11	8	6
Ulverstone	4	2	0	2	10	10	6
Riverside Olympic	4	1	0	3	10	13	3
Launceston City	4	1	0	3	4	10	3

TAS SOUTHERN LEAGUE

	G	W	D	L	F	A	P
South Hobart	7	5	1	1	16	3	16
Tilford Zebras	7	5	1	1	23	13	16
Clarence United	7	3	2	2	13	11	11
King Lions Utd	6	2	3	1	21	16	9
Glenorchy Knights	7	3	0	4	15	22	9
Hobart Olympic	6	2	1	3	10	10	7
New Town Eagles	6	2	0	4	12	18	6
University	6	0	0	6	3	20	0

MAN U IN POLE POSITION

Red Devils Superb Comeback Stuns Spurs

ENGLAND

Manchester United look certain to lift the Premier League title after the Red Devils turned on the style with a scintillating demonstration of their power, guile and class.

Sir Alex Ferguson's men came from two goals down against **Tottenham** to smash five in the second half, sending them three points clear at the top of the table with five games to play.

Old Trafford was in a state of silenced shock in the opening half hour, however, with Darren Bent and Luka Modric netting for Spurs in a dominant opening period for the visitors, as memories of the disastrous loss to Fulham came flooding back.

As the 75,000-strong crowd grew increasingly anxious, few would have predicted the reversal of emotions after United's magical second-half display.

Spurs looked on track for their first win at the Theatre of Dreams since 1989, until in the 57th minute, when the turning point of the match arrived in controversial fashion.

Tottenham's temperamental 'keeper Heurelho Gomes was deemed, in referee Howard Webb's eyes, to have fouled Michael Carrick in the box.

It was a decision that incensed the Tottenham players, manager Harry Redknapp on the touchline and surely Liverpool fans across the globe.

Cristiano Ronaldo stepped up to bury the spot-kick as the face of the game changed quickly in United's favour.

Ten minutes after Ronaldo's penalty conversion, Wayne Rooney beat Gomes at his near post to draw the sides level.

Within two minutes, United hit the front.

Ronaldo chimed in with his second goal, this time a powerful diving header from a superb Rooney cross.

With United in full throttle and firing on all cylinders, it was long before they added a fourth.

Like Ronaldo, Rooney doubled his tally as Manchester's multi-million dollar strike-force ran riot.

By the 79th minute, United had hit five, with former Spurs striker Dimitar Berbatov spreading the icing on a delicious display.

After **Liverpool** had stamped their credentials as the Premier League's most entertaining team with two 4-4 draws against top class opposition, United showed that in the situations where Liverpool managed one point, they emphatically managed three.

Liverpool will need a miracle to stop United securing their third consecutive Premier League title.

While they have shown in the past they can pull a rabbit out of a hat, the Reds look destined to succumb to the power of United and their current hold on the most top-flight championships, despite defeating **Hull City** 3-1 on Saturday.

The Tigers put up a courageous fight against Rafa Benitez' side despite being reduced to 10 men, but a double from Dutchman Dirk Kuyt and a Xabi Alonso strike were enough to see off the challenge provided by a goal from Marcio Geovanni and keep their slimming title hopes alive.

At the opposite end of the table, **West Bromich Albion** may be planning a great escape from relegation.

Berbatov and Rooney celebrate another goal in Man U's demolition of Tottenham.

Currently dead last, the Baggies blasted three goals past **Sunderland** as the cellar-dwellers recorded their first win in 12 games.

With four games to go, Brom are six points away from safety and thus have a mountain to climb, but they showed they are not willing to go out without a fight.

Elsewhere, the Premier League's most expensive player, Brazilian Robinho, inspired **Manchester City** to a 2-1 win over **Everton.**

The British transfer record signing, at 32.5 million pounds, opened the scoring at Goodison park, then turned provider for Stephen Ireland to hand City their first win on the Toffee's home soil since 1992 and ended a run of three consecutive away defeats.

Petr Cech handed **Chelsea** a lifeline in their faint title chances as he saved a penalty from **West Ham** man Mark Noble to protect a 1-0 lead for the Blues.

Salomon Kalou provided the winning goal, in a game which Guus Hiddink left Didier Drogba, Michael Essien and Michael Ballack on the bench, with the Blues having one eye on the Champions League clash against Barcelona at the Nou Camp this week.

In the other clash on Saturday **Aston Villa** and **Bolton Wanderers** shared the spoils at the Reebok Stadium in a 1-1 draw.

GERMANY

Schalke have left a substantial dent in Bayern Munich's hopes of defending their Bundesliga crown on Saturday, with a 1-0 win over the reigning champions in a hotly contested match.

The loss leaves Bayern in third place, three points behind leaders Wolfsburg, who had the chance to double this lead to six points when they travelled to Energie Cottbus on Sunday.

Halil Altintop scored the decisive goal in the first half, and as Bayern failed hit the net, their fans were prompted into chants of "Klinsmann out!", leaving Munich's coach Juergen Klinsmann in an awkward position with only five games to play.

Both teams were reduced to 10 men in a fierce encounter, Bayern losing Franck Ribery and Schalke Jermaine Jones.

Hertha Berlin moved to second place above Bayern, after they defeated **Hoffenheim** 1-0 in Friday's night match.

Wolfsburg lead the pack on 57 points, with **Hertha (55)** and **Bayern (54)** hot on their heels.

ITALY

With most of the Serie A action taking place on Sunday, the most notable result on Saturday in Italy was the 4-1 humbling Fiorentina handed out to Europa League hopefuls AS Roma.

The team from Florence moved into fourth placed, leap-frogging Genoa, and are now in a good position to gain a place in the Champions League playoffs.

A piledriver after just six minutes from Peruvian Juan Manuel Vargas gave the hosts an early lead but the side had to wait until two minutes into the second half to double their lead, through Alberto Gilardino.

Roma were the reduced to 10 men after Italian midfielder David Pizarro was given his marching orders in the 59th minute and **Fiorentina** took advantage of the numerical superiority by adding two more through Gilardino's second and a Massimo Gobbi tap-in.

Former Arsenal and Real Madrid forward Julio Baptista scored an inconsequential consolation goal in the dying stages for Roma.

In the only other match on Saturday, mid-table **Udinese** defeated **Chievo Verona** 2-1 through a Gaetano D'Agostino double.

SPAIN

Barcelona had substitute Thierry Henry to thank for keeping their title surge on track, as the Frenchman scored a late equaliser to ensure his side grabbed a vital point against Valencia.

Lionel Messi had opened the scoring at the Mestalla, but Valencia hit back with two goals in as many minutes just before the half time break, through Hedwiges Maduro and Pablo Hernandez.

As it looked increasingly likely that Barca would drop three vital points in the title race, the Catalans snatched an equaliser and a valuable point with four minutes remaining.

The slip up has cost Barca two points, and while they remain seven clear of closest challenges **Real Madrid,** the Galacticos had the chance to close this gap to four points when they took on **Sevilla** on Sunday.

EPL STANDINGS

	P	GD	PTS
1 Man Utd	31	33	71
2 Liverpool	32	38	70
3 Chelsea	32	35	67
4 Arsenal	32	26	61
5 Aston Villa	33	6	54
6 Everton	32	13	52
7 West Ham	33	1	45
8 Fulham	33	5	44
9 Tottenham	32	2	41
10 Wigan	32	-5	41
11 Stoke	33	-15	39
12 Man City	32	5	38
13 Bolton	33	-11	37
14 Portsmouth	32	-13	37
15 Sunderland	33	-12	35
16 Hull	33	-20	34
17 Blackburn	33	-20	34
18 Middlesbrough	33	-22	31
19 Newcastle	32	-15	30
20 West Brom	32	-31	25

BUNDESLIGA STANDINGS

	P	GD	PTS
1 Wolfsburg	28	28	57
2 Hertha Berlin	29	8	55
3 Bayern Munich	29	22	54
4 VfB Stuttgart	29	15	54
5 Hamburg	29	2	54
6 Schalke 04	29	16	49
7 Borussia Dortmund	29	14	49
8 TSG Hoffenheim	29	13	45
9 Bayer Leverkusen	29	13	42
10 Werder Bremen	29	14	39
11 Eintracht Frankfurt	29	-11	32
12 Cologne	29	-14	32
13 Hannover 96	29	-18	32
14 VfL Bochum	29	-12	28
15 Arminia Bielefeld	28	-19	24
16 Borussia M'gladbach	28	-19	23
17 Cottbus	28	-27	23
18 Karlsruhe	29	-25	22

SPL STANDINGS

	P	GD	PTS
1 Celtic	33	45	74
2 Rangers	33	42	73
3 Hearts	33	3	54
4 Dundee Utd	33	3	49
5 Aberdeen	33	3	48
6 Hibernian	33	-3	427

SERIE A STANDINGS

	P	GD	PTS
1 Inter Milan	32	34	74
2 AC Milan	32	30	64
3 Juventus	32	27	64
4 Fiorentina	33	13	58
5 Genoa	32	13	57
6 Roma	33	0	52
7 Palermo	32	5	49

PRIMERA LIGA

	P	GD	PTS
1 Barcelona	33	68	82
2 Real Madrid	32	40	75
3 Sevilla	32	10	57
4 Valencia	33	15	56
5 Villarreal	32	4	52
6 Malaga	33	1	51
8 Palermo	31	2	46

By Julius Ross

Photos by Soccer Way

LEGACY OF THE NSL

Still Working Wonders From Football Heaven

Much has happened since the demise of the National Soccer League. Professionalism and profile have blossomed: soccer has become football. And football has become a spirited market participant. The removal of the alienating label of soccer has allowed this country's round-ball output to integrate with the rest of the world. Our game now speaks the same language as its worldly counterparts.

It's a new-found cohesion that has Australian football poised for an era of pioneering success on-field and in the realms of business. A period that should see the national team become a mainstay of the World Cup and have the game's domestic popularity and strength of infrastructure rewarded with the enviable right to host the competition.

Celebrate this new identity we must. But forgetting the game's former identity would be unjust. Amidst the A-League's flurrying success, memory of the NSL has come to fade. Lingering less noticeably as the A-League triumphantly marches on. But it shouldn't. Australian football (nee soccer) rightfully underwent a revamp, but the current success still owes to the original national competition.

The NSL enjoyed, and at times endured, a 28-year life between 1977 and 2004, rising in the wake of Australia's qualification for the 1974 World Cup after years of failed attempts to construct a national competition.

Remnants of the previous incarnation remain; Adelaide United and Perth Glory have NSL foundations and continue as partial relics of a bygone era. A healthy percentage of the 2006 Socceroos World Cup squad found their path to Europe via the NSL. And the backbone of the World Cup 2010 squad will again be formed from vertebrae of the NSL days.

Mark Schwarzer, Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka, Vince Grella, Mark Bresciano, Archie Thompson, Brett Emerton and Jason Culina are amongst the current Socceroos crop who took their tentative professional steps in the NSL. Commercial viability and structural fortitude may have deserted the NSL come its demise but it housed many of Australia's best.

This group is the NSL's legacy. Their careers soon to conclude, it's a legacy that will become less overt in their absence. But a sizeable dose of gratitude must be maintained for the training the erstwhile league provided. For without these NSL-nurtured stars the Socceroos would most likely not have participated in the 2006 World Cup, the cataclysmic event that has the A-League flourishing in its aftermath. Qualification created an ideal climate and atmosphere of popularity that lead to the A-League boom.

It's fitting that Australia has established itself as a repeat tenant of the World Cup with NSL graduates in the senior positions. Recurring qualification is a validation of the fruits of the former league; an acknowledgement of its quality, if not its off-field operations.

As the remaining NSL hatchlings come to the end of their careers, appropriately there is a domestic league is in place with the strength of infrastructure and quality of product that allows careers to be completed where they began – if so desired. And repatriation of former NSL stars shall come at more relevant stage in careers as the A-league's status burgeons.

NSL graduate Mark Viduka in action for Melbourne Croatia before heading off to international football stardom. Photo: John Punshon.

Remembrance of the NSL shouldn't be understood as yearning for the past format; the A-league has assorted superiorities. But tribute is to be made without pining for the past. Reflecting on a past relationship reveals joys in spite of a necessary separation. Dues are also to be apportioned to Frank Lowy and company for the nous and passion channelled to bring about the new era of Australian football.

As emblems of the NSL file out the exit and into the world of retirement, onus for birthing the nation's footballing youth will come to bear on its successor. While the country's finest exports will continue to follow directions to Europe, the A-League is to be the cornerstone of Australian football. Popularity, participation and prosperity of Australian football are critically dependent on the national league.

A sturdy professional league to which to aspire will maintain the attention of would-be professionals, warding off the lures of AFL, Rugby and Cricket. The A-League will be into its second decade when the fruits of football's growth in popularity truly ripen. Continued evolution and expansion will yield a greater quantity and quality of players.

Europe is still undeniably the destination of our nation's best. It will be for the foreseeable future. Money, facilities and quality of football all peak on the European continent, making it the must-be destination for footballers. But the A-League, just as the NSL before it, has a duty to introduce talented youth to the rigours of first-team football. Sharpening skills and hardening bodies in preparation for a continental career leap. The finishing touches of Australian players will be applied in the leagues of Europe but the A-League has a forceful hand in the moulding process.

Affirmation of this duty isn't to consider the A-League as merely a feeder competition; in its four years it has established itself as a league of commendable repute and this standing will inflate in time. The return of Socceroo's star Jason Culina at the peak of his playing days evidences the league's progress.

With each subsequent year of success for the A-League, memories of the NSL may fade – and may not even exist for the new flock of football fans drawn to the new competition. And while the league had its flaws, it shouldn't be casually forgotten. It's to be remembered as a worthy contributor to the national league stability the country now possesses. Retainment of the Socceroos as the national team moniker eulogises the game past: a tribute to the game's original Australian form.

From the ashes of the NSL rose the A-League. Both mark definitive points on the continuum of Australian football. Both owe much to the nation's participation in the World Cup: The NSL its conception and the A-League its outbreak. Just as the evolutionary timeline of earth is dotted with events which reshaped the world's surface, structure and species, as have occurrences on Australian football's evolutionary map. Each World Cup qualification has spawned a new era of football in Australia.

Without attendance in 1974, plans for a national competition may have continued to languish unfulfilled on the desks of unreceptive officials. Instead, the upstart league was the beginning of thirty-year journey that now has football communicating with the Australian sporting masses. World Cup qualification ignited the flame of the first national competition, it has burned less brightly since and been extinguished for a time but it now lights the land with an intensity not before seen.

Permission to attend a third World Cup in South Africa in 2010 shall be the next Darwinian step for Australian football. And if successful in its bid to bring the World Cup to our shores inside the next two decades, Australia could see itself hosting the competition at a point when the A-League-Generation are maturing. It could be the conflation of all parts of the evolutionary process, that began with inauguration of the NSL, that leads to ultimate success. Optimistic – yes. But aspirations for the game in this land are (justifiably) at an all time high.

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WHO'S AFRAID OF THE DROP?

Doing The Business At the Bottom End

The English Premier League is without doubt the best league in the world right now. It is where the best football is played, where many of the best footballers have chosen to ply their trade, and it is a product which is exported all over the world.

However, for many clubs which currently occupy a place in the top division, there is a word which is able to spark a terror deep into the hearts of the players, the management, and especially the fans. At the start of any season, nobody dares say the word, but towards the end of the season it occupies the mind more than anything else can. And that word is Relegation.

This season more teams than ever before have been at some point involved in the relegation scrap. And believe me, scrap is the perfect word for it. Some have been lucky; Spurs toyed with relegation early but have pushed forward and are now looking up rather than down, Fulham did not start great but have also eased up the table after survival last year, and even megabucks Manchester City have had to guard against battling the drop. For at least eight other teams, though, relegation is still a serious possibility. But is relegation really the disaster that everyone makes it out to be? Quite simply yes it is.

The emotional rollercoaster of football will hit some fans hard as their teams face the end of season moment of truth. Who will keep their bottle and survive the dreaded drop?

Like it or not, today's football revolves around money. And it is because of the money involved that the threat of relegation is so intimidating. The average EPL club receives £45 million a year from television rights, whereas the average Championship club only receives £1 million. In case you can't add up, that's a difference of £44 million pounds. You could but half of Kaka for that money. And that's not all, because the Championship product is nowhere near as entertaining as the EPL, a drop into the second tier often means a drop in attendance which means even less money for the clubs.

And the proverbial vicious circle continues; a lack of money means that clubs have to sell their better players, or at least ask them to take a drop in their wages, in order to maintain the running of the club. And if a club in unable to balance their books, further penalties and possible further relegation can take occur.

One only has to look at clubs such as Leeds, Southampton or Bradford to see how bad relegation can get. Leeds are currently in a playoff position in League 1, whilst Southampton will probably be a member of the League 1 roster next season as they look almost certain to go down from the Championship in the next few weeks. Both of these clubs were in the EPL only a few years ago, and both (especially Leeds) are pretty big English clubs. Things have got even worse for Bradford City, who now occupy mid-table in the English League 2. All three clubs have suffered for their respective chairman's poor money management and have had to suffer dropping down the English league's faster that an Usain Bolt 100m race (well maybe not that quick).It's no wonder owners, managers, players and fans alike are afraid of dropping out of the EPL, as who knows where they could all end up.

In recent years the Premier League has introduced what's known as "parachute payments" to clubs who suffer relegation. This is basically a small amount which is taken from the vast sum of money given to the EPL clubs by TV. In 06-07, the amount was £6.5 million spread over two seasons, and in 07-08 this rose to £11.2 million. Some people have seen this as a way of ensuring the continued success of clubs that have played in the EPL. I don't think this is the case though. Of the three teams that went down two years ago, Reading, Birmingham and Derby, none came straight back up, although this season promotion is a possibility for two clubs. However this looks more due to good management and player transfers than through the money given to them. And of the three teams relegated last season, only one has hopes of promotion (Sheffield United). Another is firmly mired in the middle of the table (Watford), and the final team (Charlton) has just been relegated to League 1. Surely this proves that the parachute payment does not guarantee immediate success.

So it comes as no surprise that the battle against relegation is the only major excitement left in the EPL this season, unless you really believe Liverpool can catch Manchester United, which I do not. And with only a few games left to go in the season, anyone who thinks they definitely know which three teams are going down is a liar.

Of course, from a fans point of view, a drop into lower divisions is bad news, and I'm sure any fan would rather avoid being relegated. However, real fans will continue to go and watch their club, no matter how far down they drop or how bad the football on show is. And despite the indignity of being relegation, football is only a game, and most fans realise that. The real fear of relegation comes from the players and the owners. A drop in league means a drop in money; either profits or wages. And it means less exposure to bigger clubs or to bigger markets, which again means either less money or less opportunity. There is no wonder that when we see teams like Blackburn or Hull playing at the moment we can literally see the terror in their eyes and in their football.

In a world where those who have money are always better off than those who do not, the threat of relegation is something to always be fearful of. Going down is not the end of the world, but as a supporter of a team which has never suffered relegation from the top tier of English football (I'll let you guess who that is), I am so glad that I have never had to face a season in the lower leagues. I know I've said that fans shouldn't take it too hard, but if it was my team I'd probably be crying in the stands with everyone else.

For what it's worth, I fancy West Brom, Middlesbrough and Hull to go down. But let's face it, with the exception of West Brom, who are pretty much down, the other two teams which face the drop could be any two from about eight teams. So your guess as to who goes down is as good as mine.

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A NEW IDEA FOR THE 'OLD FIRM"

Gartside Proposes Two-Tier English Premier League

A proposal by Phil Gartside, chairman of Bolton Wanderers, to create a two-tier Premier League of 18 teams could be up for discussion at the league's Annual General Meeting in June.

If he gets his way we could be looking at an EPL1 and EPL2, the latter with the additions of Glasgow Rangers and Glasgow Celtic.

There was once a time such an advertising pitch would have been given as much consideration as a chocolate teapot but indications are, if this goes to a vote, we could be close to getting the 14 of 20 EPL teams to agree to EPL1 and EPL2 that would make it become a reality.

The question is why has Gartside chosen now to propose this, does this have a chance of going through and what will its impact be on the English game?

The answers to the first two are inextricably linked.

Gartside is chairman of a small provincial club that will never make the UCL and year in, year out are afraid of relegation. Understandably he doesn't like the idea of his team going down a division and losing the TV money. So this is his answer.

The timing is good. At some stage this season more than two thirds of the league was in danger of getting relegated. I suspect Gartside's theory is to persuade clubs that his idea to share revenue between EPL1 and EPL2 and include the Old Firm would increase the profile of the league and generate more TV money.

It's a moot point right now because the current EPL TV deal isn't up until 2013 and it is unlikely to be renegotiated any sooner.

The question of its impact on English football is harder to determine. There is no doubt that interest in an EPL2 would galvanise clubs not good enough to stay in an EPL1 but not bad enough to drop out of EPL2. Clubs like Nottingham Forest, West Brom, Middlesbrough, Norwich, Leeds and Leicester could be big winners initially if they are in an EPL2 with the Old Firm.

There has been no concrete answer from Scotland's big two to the proposal but indications are that they are happy to go into an EPL2 and not straight into an EPL1. They would sell out every home game and chances are their away games would be sold out too given the number of their fans travelling all around Europe. A trip down south would pose little travel headache for the Tartan Armies.

What happens though if and when the Old Firm get promoted? The TV interest in EPL2 would surely wane but this would not affect TV revenues for EPL2 clubs, just gate receipts, which don't make up nearly as much of a club's turnover that fans think. From that point of view it makes sound financial sense.

The Gartside proposal also includes the idea of only having 1 team relegated from EPL2 into the lower leagues. This would create more stability allowing teams to budget more confidently. However the trade-off is more meaningless games between mid-table clubs at the end of the season, hardly the sort of stuff TV execs would salivate over. What makes this season so enthralling for fans and TV is that so many clubs still have something to play for. Take that away and what do you have? Lower crowds at the end of the season and even lower viewing figures.

Another problem with the proposal is the Champions League. Rangers and Celtic would forfeit their annual automatic entry into Europe's premier competition if they joined EPL2. Scotland will still keep its two entries so in that respect their defection might even help clubs like Hearts, Aberdeen and Hibernian as

Mover and shaker: Phil Gartside

two of them could taste UCL football for the first time.

Before I go into more depth about the consequences, especially for the elite clubs of England I need to lay my cards on the table. I am dead set against the idea.

Financial stability of clubs is one thing but this protectionist idea is primarily aimed at clubs like Bolton, Blackburn and Middlesbrough so they can artificially hold on to EPL status. Smaller clubs will no longer have the realistic dream of moving through the ranks of English football because there will be a bottleneck to get into EPL2.

The populist appeal of the proposal cannot be understated. Half the clubs in the top flight are from small provincial towns or are financially constrained small clubs like Fulham or West Ham. Relegation for some could be a financial disaster, look at Charlton and Southampton as well as Leeds and Leicester.

But is that really a good enough reason to artificially change the landscape of English football? There will always be well run clubs that and there will be others that are mismanaged into financial ruin. This proposal will not change that. Would the financial problems at West Ham have been averted by EPL1 and 2? No way. What isn't mentioned are that the majority of clubs that get relegated do not go to the wall.

I have no problem in looking after self-interest like Gartside is doing but, though the idea of stability seems seducing, in reality it is stability for the few and stuff the many, the many being the smaller clubs outside of the elite 34 in England. What will happen if clubs like Leeds, Charlton, Nottingham Forest and Southampton are in League 2 when this plan comes into fruition? These are clubs that would grace the current EPL but would be fighting for one promotion place in EPL2.

Will this go through anyway? Only seven clubs need to vote against it for it to bomb so I don't see it succeeding.

What I suspect would happen if it did become reality is that Celtic and Rangers would get promoted to EPL1 in their first season and with the massive TV money would become a real danger to the top 4 of Chelsea, Man Utd, Arsenal and Liverpool with quality signings and huge crowds.

The top four clubs will envisage this and will not vote for the proposal because it jeopardises 'their' UCL places. Teams like Spurs, Everton and Aston Villa whose main aim is European qualification, will not want the extra competition for European places from the Old Firm so would probably vote against it too.

Lost in all this is the fact that the Old Firm needs the EPL more than we need them. The coverage and exposure of the EPL is worldwide and unsurpassed. Yes it would be improved by their inclusion into the English game yet call me old fashioned but I prefer to keep English football English.

As a general rule I think migrating teams outside their territory is a bad idea, national leagues need national identities. To take the point to its natural conclusion then we should be looking at two 18-team European leagues for the top echelon of clubs (instead of domestic competition) or how about allowing Ajax, PSG, Lyon or Marseille to join the EPL? They're only a few hours away by train and they'll enhance its profile!

Flippancy aside what are the alternatives, especially if the EPL does need more financial stability? If teams are so desperate to preserve their status why not relegate one team from the EPL automatically and have the other two playoff against the two semi-final playoff winners from the Coca Cola Championship? It wouldn't improve financial stability but would make it harder to get relegated whilst still giving lower league teams the chance to progress. Of course someone could tell Gartside that managing the finances so you spend within your means is a good idea too.

Time For Cesc To Fess Up

On Friday Cesc Fabregas was charged with improper conduct by the FA for incidents after an FA Cup quarter final against Hull City.

The fact he has been pulled up means the powers that be feel he has done something wrong and needs to explain himself. It would be a good time to be honest to his manager and the FA about what he did on the pitch that day.

Cesc had every right to be celebrating with his team-mates after a hard fought victory against a very defensive team that wasted time at every opportunity. What he doesn't have the right to do is insult opposition players and spit at the Hull City assistant coach, which is what he is alleged to have done by Hull City officials, something Cesc denied at the time.

Now I don't know what happened but I know who I believe. I find it hard to think that seasoned veteran coach Brian Horton would waste time with frivolous allegations. Furthermore, given Cesc's deplorable behaviour in which he is alleged to have told Hull players to 'f*** off back up north', I think if found guilty he should be banned for at least three matches.

Celebrating is one thing but arrogance and

Patrick Viera spitting chips

taunting should be off the menu. As an Arsenal captain I expect him to act with more dignity. My one complaint about the English media is that a lot is made (and rightly so) of spitting incidents like this one and previously the Patrick Viera 'spat' against West Ham's Neil Ruddock, whilst not enough column inches are devoted to highlighting the cynical studs-in challenges and errant elbows that threaten careers more than a mouthful of saliva ever will.

What the FA should also be doing is bringing into disrepute managers who talk about officials and question their integrity before matches, as David Moyes did before the FA Cup semi against Manchester United when querying if Mike Riley was a Manchester United fan.

Why didn't he bring t up with the FA rather than with he media? Any attempts to influence officials or any mention of them should be banned by the FA but I suspect they'll cower back into the corner waiting for the next media issue to pounce on once they've dealt with Fabregas.

I hope once the issue of Fabregas has died down though that he will be humbled by his experiences, lead by example and make headlines for his playing ability, which hasn't been much in evidence this season due to injury and poor form. A perfect place to start would be Old Trafford on Wednesday. That would have SAF spitting mad!

Visit www.bleedfootball.info for football articles, videos and opinion.

Fabregas and Co. give directions to Hull coach, Brian Hornton.

2009 MAX STERN CUP

Max takes on his 19 year old grandson, Josh Paneth.

Max presenting the trophy to the Captain of the CPSS team.

The dressing room celebrations.

Max with Josh after the match.

The annual Max Stern Cup game for 2009 was played yesterday in blistery conditions at Caulfield Park. Doyen of the Maccabi Soccer Club, 88 year old Max is the oldest registered soccer player in Australia and trains regularly with the Club. Born in Czechoslovakia in March 1921, his lifelong passions are Soccer and the Stamp Business he founded on his arrival in Australia in 1948. The match was between Maccabi Veterans team and Caulfield Park Social Soccer Club. CPSS won 3-1. The Ross Esterman Memorial Trophy for Best Player went to Yakov Chamravi from Maccabi Veterans.

BRUNSWICK CITY HIT TOP SPOT AFTER BIG WIN AT ALTONA

Altona City 1 Brunswick City 3

The news before the start of the game was not good for Ciantar with his sweeper, Malcolm Jackson, pulling out late due to a lower back injury and regulars Gonullu (hamstring), Con Vouloumanos (knee) and Squillacioti (suspended) all missing from his starting line up.

To their credit Brunswick City produced another magnificent second half display though to completely overrun Altona City and register an excellent away win. Brunswick who are establishing a bit of a reputation as late starters began slowly whilst Altona quickly got on the front foot and started to dictate terms.

In fact Altona created a number of chances in the first part of the half but lacked the final polish on most of their moves.

The main culprit for Altona being Marcos Oliveira who could have had a hattrick by the main break. In the 30' though he turned from villain to hero when he was first to pounce on Dimitropoulos's parried save after a powerful shot from John Little. Oliveira made it 1-0 and it appeared that Altona were in for a good day.

But the goal served as a "caffeine" shot for the visitors as they picked up the tempo and perhaps the home team psychologically relaxed. In the 35' Manny Karas had his shot deflected onto the crossbar by the Altona custodian but the momentum was beginning to turn.

Five minutes later Gino Defeo who was starting to really take the game on himself beat his immediate opponent and worked his way done the byline. He cleverly crossed the ball back into the path of Madarovski who volleyed the ball first time into the net to equalise at the main break.

Ciantar's half time message brought an immediate response from his lads as they completely dominated the second half with some excellent performances from some of his fringe players. Karas took control of the midfield with his relentless running and the backline continued to be well organised and efficient through Danos and young Dennis Sadik.

Defeo up front was continuing to cause headaches for the Altona defence. In the 69' he broke free down hte left and intuitively cut the ball back where Karas was on hand to slot the ball home and make it 1-2. Man of the match, Gino Defeo, again had a hand in the last goal when his 80' strike was too powerfully for the keeper to keep out of the net resulting in a deserved 1-3 score line for Brunswick. The win puts Brunswick City on top of the ladder with ten points being the only undefeated team to date. On a sour note injuries to Madarovski and Jim Vouloumanos will further test Brunswick's depth in the next few weeks.

The Altona City reserve team was too strong for the young Brunswick team winning comfortably 2-0.

Goalscorers:Danny Madarovski, 40' , Manny Karas 69' , Gino Defeo 80' (Brunswick City), Marcos Oliveira 30' (Altona City).

Best:G.Defeo, M. Karas, A. Garisto, G.Danos (Brunswick)

Line ups:
Brunswick City: (Ciantar) Dimitropoulos, Danos, Dennis Sadik J.Vouloumanos (Jones 65'), A. Garisto Daniel Sadik , Madarovski (Suesspeck 60'), D. Garisto , Karas, Stafrace (Tsalkos 85'), G. Defeo

Altona City: Cardinal, Memishi, Hulusi, Lejack, Worrall, Russell, Kasat, Bellomo, Wegenmeren, Little, Oliveira

By Loui Simopoulos

State League Division NW 2

MADONDO HAT TRICK KNOCKS OUT KNOX

Knox City 0 Malvern City 4

Malvern City scored a comprehensive win at Knox City with a hat-trick to Paul Madondo doing the damage. A late goal to Juan Sastre simply rounded off a bad day at the office for the home team.

Malvern took an early lead and then killed off the game midway through the seond half as they hit Knox on the counter with devastating effect. The front two for Malvern, Riley and Madondo constantly broke from wide positions to give the Knox back-line a day they would like to forget.

Although Knox started brightly enough one long ball was enough to tell them that there day was going to get a lot worse. In the 4th minute, Madondo raced onto the through ball, held off a challenge from Boris Karaga and slotted the ball past Mark Jorgensen.

Playing with the strong wind, the visitors used the long ball to good effect. Knox got back into the game with some good football but it invariably broke down in the final third. It was also disconcerting to see so many balls needlessly given away.

Chasing the game in the second half was always going to be fraught with danger against a speedy counter-attack and so it proved in seven minutes midway through the half.

On the hour mark, Simon Groom gave the ball away as Knox were about to mount an attack and the ball was quickly transferred forward to Madondo who again proved too strong for his marker and he scored his second.

Seven minutes later and another quick break, this time down the left wing and Richard Swingler was able to draw a defender and Jorgensen to the ball before slipping it to Madondo who had the simplest task to complete his hat-trick.

It was 80 minutes before Brozster in the Malvern goal was called upon to make a decent save as he did well to turn Matt Orr's shot over the bar at full stretch. Up to this time his contribution had been to get his fist to a couple of corners but too often the Knox players failed to clear the first man with their crosses.

As the clock wound down to stoppage time and with knox pressing as high up the pitch as they could a through ball found Juan Sastre on the halfway line and he scooted clear to put the final nail in Knox's coffin.

Knox City Reseves kept their 100% record with a 3-0 victory over Malvern City in the opening game. Goals to Edin Becirovic, Joshua Valadon and Michael Donkin sealed a comprehensive victory.

Knox City: M. Jorgensen, N. Veljovic, A. Edgar, C. Kerr, S, Barrero (M. Hoogendyk – 70th), B. Karaga, A. Asimakidis (M. Orr – 59th), A. Saunders, D. Veljovic, S. Peutherer, N. Giannopoulos (S. Groom – 52nd),. Sub Not Used: C. Marshall.

Malvern City: K. Brozster, N. Katsamboukas, A, Varvaras, P. Liapis, K. Kennedy, A. D'Ortenzio, P. Madondo (J. Sastre – 79th), J. Manolas (A. Stavridis – 88th), R. Swingler, M. Riley, A. Pratt. Sub not used – T. Polizopoulos.

By Bruce Darnell

State League Division SE 2

LEAD CHANGES AGAIN

Northcote Now Top as Saints, Greens Stall

St Albans have been overthrown from first place on the State League One ladder after only one week on top during the fourth round after a 1-1 draw with the Western Suburbs at Churchill Reserve yesterday.

While the Saints do have one game in hand, they lost their opportunity to maintain a large advantage over the new leaders; Northcote City.

The Saints had many opportunities to pull ahead in the opening half hour, although simply couldn't convert any of these, leaving the game scoreless up to half time. Finally, in the second half the Saints' Maks Cuze managed to find the back of the net, though the home side's lead did not last long as Suburbs pulled even through Josh Kamasz. The point lifts the Western Suburbs up in to outright sixth place, while St Albans are one point off the pace with a game in hand.

Springvale's Billy Armour leaves his Greens opponent laying in his wake.

The Springvale White Eagles have pulled off a major shock in securing their first points for the season with a 2-2 draw with Bentleigh at Kingston Heath on Friday night. The Greens, who began the season with two consecutive wins, have come back to earth somewhat with a loss and a draw in the last two weeks. An evenly matched first half saw two goals scored through Bentleigh's Milan Savic and White Eagle Zoran Vukas. A Craig Smart second-half brace saw the Greens looking likely to return to the winner's circle, however a heartbreaking own goal brought Springvale back on to level terms.

The Southern Stars, after such a positive start to the season last week in defeating Bentleigh, have been handed a reality check after Northcote City inflicted a 3-1 loss at John Cain Memorial Park on Saturday afternoon. Two first-half goals to league leading goal scorer Trent Rixon allowed City to take a 2-0 lead into half time, although the Stars emerged from the break a determined unit; and were duly rewarded when Vincent Bontemps scored his first goal for the season. Though, this was to be as close as the Stars were to get to their opponents, with Northcote confirming the three points, and their position at the head of the table with their third goal.

Langwarrin have jumped off the bottom of the ladder after their maiden victory over the Fawkner Blues at CB Smith Reserve yesterday. They took a lead into half time, in what must've been unfamiliar territory for them this year after Stuart Craig gave them the early advantage. However, Chris Greechan broke through with two goals for the Blues in the second half, before Langwarrin's Caleb Nicholes equalised, sending the game towards a tense finish. Simon O'Donnell became the hero for the visitors, breaking the deadlock by netting the winner which secured his side their first win for the season.

Meanwhile, Frankston's goal drought has continued with a goalless draw with Pascoe Vale at Hosken Reserve on Saturday. The Pines had only scored one goal in three outings prior to this match, and again, as has been the case many times already this season, could not find any attacking structure to break down the opposition's defence. Luckily for Frankston though; Pascoe Vale also struggled just as much to penetrate the Pines resolute defending. The single point will be quite valuable to Frankston as it doubles their previous tally, while Pascoe Vale remain unbeaten, albeit with just the solitary victory next to their name.

By Jeremy O'Neill

Photos by Darryl Kennedy

State League Division One action from the 2-2 draw between Bentleigh Greens and Springvale White Eagles.

RESULTS

Bentleigh Greens 2 (M Savic C Smart) **Springvale White Eagles 2** (Z Vukas Own Goal), **Pascoe Vale 0 Frankston Pines 0, Northcote City 3** (T Rixon 2) **Southern Stars 1** (V Bontemps), **St Albans Saints 1** (M Cuze) **Western Suburbs 1** (J Kamasz), **Fawkner Blues 2** (C Greechan 2) **Langwarrin 3 (**S Craig C Nicholes SA O'Donnell)

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Northcote City	4	2	2	0	8	5	8
St Albans Saints	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
Bentleigh Greens	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Bulleen Royals	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Pascoe Vale	4	1	3	0	3	1	6
Western Suburbs	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Fawkner Blues	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Clifton Hill	3	1	1	1	4	6	4
Southern Stars	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Langwarrin	4	1	0	3	5	7	3
Frankston Pines	4	0	2	2	1	5	2
Springvale WE	4	0	1	3	6	10	1

ROUND 5 FIXTURES

Langwarrin v Frankston Pines
Lawton Park Reserve
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM

Southern Stars v Fawkner Blues
Ross Reserve
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM

Clifton Hill v Bentleigh Greens
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM

Springvale WE v Northcote City
White Eagles Stadium
Sat 2 May KO 6:30PM

Western Suburbs v Bulleen Royals
Ralph Reserve
Sun 3 May KO 3:00PM

St Albans Saints v Pascoe Vale
Churchill Reserve
Sun 3 May KO 3:00PM

RESERVE DETAILS

Bentleigh Greens 5 Springvale White Eagles 0, Pascoe Vale 0 Frankston Pines 2, Northcote City 1 Southern Stars 1, St Albans Saints 1 Western Suburbs 4, Fawkner Blues 1 Langwarrin 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Western Suburbs	4	3	1	0	13	7	10
Langwarrin	4	3	0	1	14	3	9
Bentleigh Greens	4	3	0	1	14	3	9
Fawkner Blues	4	2	2	0	8	5	8
Frankston Pines	4	2	0	2	4	6	6
Pascoe Vale	4	1	1	2	7	9	4
Bulleen Royals	2	1	0	1	3	6	3
Springvale WE	4	1	0	3	6	13	3
Clifton Hill	3	0	2	1	4	6	2
Northcote City	4	0	2	2	5	12	2
St Albans Saints	3	0	1	2	4	8	1
Southern Stars	2	0	1	1	1	5	1

RESULTS & LADDERS

State & Provisional Leagues - Round 4

goal! Weekly

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Seniors

Ballarat Red Devils 1 (F Labakohler) North Geelong Warriors 0, Keilor Park 1 Williamstown 0, Sydenham Park 1 (S Stojanovski) Thomastown Devils 3 (E Awad S Lamanda 2), Geelong Rangers 1 (D Corry) Altona East Phoenix 0, Altona City 1 (M Oliveira) Brunswick City 3 (E Karas D(Madaroski)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brunswick City	4	3	1	0	8	4	10
Altona East Phoenix	4	3	0	1	5	1	9
Geelong Rangers	4	3	0	1	7	4	9
Williamstown	4	2	1	1	3	1	7
Thomastown Devils	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
North Geelong Warriors	4	2	0	2	6	4	6
Keilor Park	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Werribee City	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Ballarat Red Devils	4	1	1	2	1	5	4
Altona City	4	1	0	3	6	8	3
Westgate	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Sydenham Park	4	0	0	4	3	12	0

Reserves

Ballarat Red Devils 3 North Geelong Warriors 2, Keilor Park 1 Williamstown 0, Sydenham Park 1 Thomastown Devils 0, Geelong Rangers 0 Altona East Phoenix 0, Altona City 2 Brunswick City 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keilor Park	4	4	0	0	13	0	12
Ballarat Red Devils	4	3	1	0	8	4	10
Altona City	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Sydenham Park	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Thomastown Devils	4	2	1	1	2	1	7
Brunswick City	4	2	0	2	5	6	6
Williamstown	4	1	1	2	5	4	4
Geelong Rangers	4	1	1	2	2	4	4
Werribee City	3	1	1	1	4	8	4
Altona East Phoenix	4	1	1	2	3	7	4
Westgate	3	0	0	3	2	7	0
North Geelong Warriors	4	0	0	4	5	11	0

STATE SOUTH EAST 2

Seniors

Port Melbourne 2 (I Khrapko A Vulic) Casey Comets 2 (PM Presti 2), Heatherton Utd 0 Kingston City 2 (SP Mulligan), Eastern Lions 0 Doncaster Rovers 2 (S Murat D Rischitelli), Dandenong City 5 (K Townson) Morwell Pegasus 1, Knox City 0 Malvern City 4 (P Madondo 3 JM Sastre-Tejedor), South Springvale 0 Diamond Valley Utd 2 (K Unwin)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Malvern City	4	3	0	1	9	2	9
Doncaster Rovers	3	3	0	0	8	1	9
Eastern Lions	4	3	0	1	7	4	9
Port Melbourne	4	2	2	0	6	4	8
Diamond Valley Utd	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
Dandenong City	4	1	1	2	7	8	4
Knox City	3	1	1	1	2	5	4
Kingston City	4	1	0	3	4	7	3
Heatherton Utd	3	1	0	2	2	6	3
Morwell Pegasus	4	1	0	3	4	10	3
Casey Comets	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
South Springvale	4	0	1	3	2	6	1

Reserves

Port Melbourne 2 Casey Comets 1, Heatherton Utd 2 Kingston City 0, Eastern Lions 1 Doncaster Rovers 3, Dandenong City 1 Morwell Pegasus 1, Knox City 3 Malvern City 0, South Springvale 0 Diamond Valley Utd 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Port Melbourne	4	4	0	0	18	4	12
Dandenong City	4	3	1	0	12	5	10
Doncaster Rovers	3	3	0	0	14	2	9
Knox City	3	3	0	0	13	1	9
Morwell Pegasus	4	2	2	0	8	2	8
Eastern Lions	4	2	1	1	10	3	7
Malvern City	4	1	0	3	11	13	3
Heatherton Utd	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Diamond Valley Utd	4	0	1	3	3	15	1
South Springvale	4	0	1	3	3	24	1
Casey Comets	3	0	0	3	3	7	0
Kingston City	4	0	0	4	1	17	0

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Seniors

Westvale 2 (E Klancevic DJ Sfetcopoulos) Hume Utd 3 (V Kalayci 2 T Markovski), Maribyrnong Greens 1 (H Ikanovic) Geelong 2 (A Longo J Ikanovic), Moreland City 0 Cairnlea 0, Yarraville Glory 0 Banyule City 2 (N Papadopoulos), Lalor 4 (D Christou P Romano WJ Sismanis 2) Melbourne University Rangers 2 (A Griffith Own Goal), North Sunshine Eagles 3 (R Isac 3) La Trobe University 1 (L Lidestri)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hume Utd	4	4	0	0	13	4	12
Moreland City	4	2	2	0	7	5	8
Banyule City	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
Maribyrnong Greens	4	2	0	2	9	4	6
Yarraville Glory	4	2	0	2	9	6	6
La Trobe University	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Geelong	4	2	0	2	4	11	6
Lalor	4	1	2	1	10	11	5
Melbourne Uni Rangers	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
North Sunshine Eagles	4	1	0	3	5	8	3
Westvale	3	0	1	2	5	7	1
Cairnlea	3	0	1	2	0	6	1

Reserves

Westvale 1 Hume Utd 2, Maribyrnong Greens 4 Geelong 2, Moreland City 2 Cairnlea 0, Yarraville Glory 0 Banyule City 0, Lalor 1 Melbourne University Rangers 2, North Sunshine Eagles 2 La Trobe University 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
La Trobe University	4	3	1	0	14	5	10
Moreland City	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Yarraville Glory	4	2	2	0	5	1	8
Banyule City	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Maribyrnong Greens	4	2	1	1	10	11	7
Hume Utd	4	2	0	2	5	6	6
Geelong	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Westvale	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
Melbourne Uni Rangers	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
North Sunshine Eagles	4	0	2	2	3	7	2
Cairnlea	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Lalor	4	0	0	4	2	10	0

STATE SOUTH EAST 3

Seniors

Boroondara Eagles 0 Waverley Wanderers 2 (FM Alfa S Aydogan), Nunawading City 0 Brandon Park 0, Springvale City 3 (M Omerdic F Bove A Osmani) Sandringham City 0, Berwick City 0 Croydon City Arrows 1 (NA Gatzonis), Southern Suburbs 2 (G Giannakopoulos A Tzimos) Peninsula Strikers 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Springvale City	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
Boroondara Eagles	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Southern Suburbs	4	1	3	0	5	3	6
Croydon City Arrows	4	1	3	0	3	2	6
Nunawading City	4	1	2	1	6	3	5
Waverley Wanderers	3	1	2	0	2	0	5
Brandon Park	4	1	2	1	4	5	5
Noble Park Utd	2	1	1	0	7	7	4
Peninsula Strikers	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
Berwick City	4	0	2	2	3	5	2
North Caulfield	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Sandringham City	3	0	0	3	1	9	0

Reserves

Boroondara Eagles 0 Waverley Wanderers 1, Nunawading City 1 Brandon Park 1, Springvale City 2 Sandringham City 3, Berwick City 1 Croydon City Arrows 3, Southern Suburbs 0 Peninsula Strikers 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Croydon City Arrows	4	4	0	0	12	3	12
Noble Park Utd	3	3	0	0	14	0	9
Sandringham City	3	3	0	0	8	3	9
Berwick City	4	2	1	1	13	6	7
Brandon Park	4	2	1	1	9	5	7
Peninsula Strikers	4	2	1	1	9	5	7
Nunawading City	4	1	1	2	4	9	4
Waverley Wanderers	3	1	0	2	1	11	3
North Caulfield	3	0	2	1	5	6	2
Southern Suburbs	4	0	2	2	5	11	2
Springvale City	4	0	0	4	4	14	0
Boroondara Eagles	4	0	0	4	0	11	0

PROVI 1 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Sunbury Utd 3 (D Salatino D Murdaca Z Romanovski) Northern Falcons 0, Western Eagles 0 FC Strathmore 0, South Yarra 1 (B Dolan) Whittlesea Utd 0, Corio 1 (SJ Luczo) Lalor Utd 1 (K Nedanovski), Elwood City 2 (J Oakes K Djelassi) Laverton Park 3 (C Stude 2 G Olea)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sunbury Utd	4	4	0	0	10	2	12
Whittlesea Utd	4	3	0	1	10	2	9
South Yarra	4	3	0	1	6	4	9
Lalor Utd	4	2	1	1	8	3	7
Laverton Park	4	2	1	1	9	8	7
Corio	4	2	1	1	7	8	7
Essendon Utd	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
FC Strathmore	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Western Eagles	4	0	1	3	3	9	1
Melbourne City	3	0	1	2	2	9	1
Northern Falcons	4	0	1	3	1	8	1
Elwood City	4	0	0	4	6	12	0

Reserves

Sunbury Utd 2 Northern Falcons 1, Western Eagles 0 FC Strathmore 0, South Yarra 2 Whittlesea Utd 0, Corio 3 Lalor Utd 5, Elwood City 2 Laverton Park 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Elwood City	4	3	0	1	8	4	9
South Yarra	4	3	0	1	6	2	9
Essendon Utd	3	3	0	0	5	2	9
Lalor Utd	4	2	2	0	8	4	8
Laverton Park	4	2	1	1	9	8	7
Melbourne City	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Sunbury Utd	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
FC Strathmore	4	1	1	2	1	5	4
Northern Falcons	4	1	0	3	4	4	3
Whittlesea Utd	4	1	0	3	2	10	3
Western Eagles	4	0	2	2	4	6	2
Corio	4	0	1	3	5	9	1

PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Old Scotch 5 Endeavour Utd 1, Old Camberwell Grammar 0 Warragul Utd 1 (D Embleton), Fitzroy City 2 (Z Ninkovic HF Wootton) Mornington 1 (JR Paterson), Doveton 1 Monbulk 1, Ashburton 1 (C Boyle) Old Melburnians 4 (M Pember A Crane), Mooroolbark 2 (T Hardcastle M Cauteruccio) Monash University 4 (JE Serrano LP Johnson 2 MW Nyadzayo)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Warragul Utd	4	3	1	0	6	1	9
Fitzroy City	4	3	0	1	6	2	9
Monash University	4	2	1	1	8	6	7
Old Melburnians	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Old Camberwell Grammar	4	1	2	1	7	5	5
Doveton	4	1	3	0	5	3	5
Mornington	4	1	2	1	7	6	5
Monbulk	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Old Scotch	3	1	1	1	7	5	4
Mooroolbark	4	0	3	1	4	6	3
Ashburton	4	0	1	3	3	11	1
Endeavour Utd	4	0	0	4	4	14	0

Reserves

Old Scotch 2 Endeavour Utd 1, Old Camberwell Grammar 3 Warragul Utd 0, Fitzroy City 0 Mornington 1, Doveton 1 Monbulk 0, Ashburton 0 Old Melburnians 3, Mooroolbark 0 Monash University 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Monash University	4	3	1	0	6	2	10
Old Camberwell Grammar	4	2	2	0	8	4	8
Mornington	4	2	2	0	5	3	8
Old Scotch	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Old Melburnians	3	2	0	1	9	4	6
Endeavour Utd	4	2	0	2	10	7	6
Mooroolbark	4	1	2	1	3	2	5
Ashburton	4	1	1	2	7	4	4
Doveton	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Fitzroy City	4	1	0	3	5	10	3
Warragul Utd	4	0	1	3	3	11	1
Monbulk	4	0	1	3	3	12	1

PROVI 2 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Plenty Valley Lions 2 West Preston 2 (J Maragos PP Haloulos), Avondale Heights 3 (R Canzoneri 2) North City Lions 1, Epping City 3 (R Nerone SS Papadopoulos N Filin) Hoppers Crossing 1 (NB Mladichek), Collingwood City 0 Moreland Utd 1, Watsonia Heights 2 (J Adamo R Duerden) Bell Park 2 (E Lawrence)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Avondale Heights	4	3	0	1	14	5	9
Moreland Utd	4	3	0	1	8	4	9
West Preston	4	2	2	0	9	6	8
Collingwood City	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
Epping City	4	2	1	1	8	6	7
Hoppers Crossing	4	1	2	1	6	7	5
North City Lions	4	1	1	2	8	6	4
Bell Park	4	1	1	2	7	10	4
Plenty Valley Lions	4	1	1	2	6	13	4
Watsonia Heights	4	0	3	1	5	6	3
Darebin Utd	3	0	2	1	5	8	2
Melbourne Tornado	3	0	0	3	3	11	0

Reserves

Plenty Valley Lions 2 West Preston 1, Avondale Heights 3 North City Lions 0, Epping City 6 Hoppers Crossing 0, Collingwood City 2 Moreland Utd 2, Watsonia Heights 2 Bell Park 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Epping City	4	4	0	0	13	4	12
Collingwood City	4	3	1	0	11	6	10
Bell Park	4	2	1	1	9	5	7
Avondale Heights	4	2	0	2	9	8	6
Watsonia Heights	4	2	0	2	6	5	6
North City Lions	4	2	0	2	7	8	6
Hoppers Crossing	4	1	2	1	5	9	5
Melbourne Tornado	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Plenty Valley Lions	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Moreland Utd	4	0	3	1	4	7	3
Darebin Utd	3	0	1	2	3	8	1
West Preston	4	0	0	4	5	10	0

PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Riversdale 3 (T Piszczyk A Forsyth C Mitchell) Beaumaris 1 (TF Cannon), Old Carey 2 (AF Amin M Hargitay) Whitehorse Utd 0, Lyndale Utd 2 (R Roslan A Rosa) Old Brighton Grammarians 3 (J Salvage J Pennycuick J Foschini), Dandenong Sparrows 2 (T Ithier T Boi) Caulfield Cobras 1, White Star Dandenong 1 (K Thevenot) Carrum Utd 6 (A Raiz A Busuttil C Espinoza M Serapiglia M Vella D Cori), Berwick Kings 4 (B Stojilovic M Djordjevic D Blanusa 2) Rowville Eagles 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Dandenong Sparrows	4	4	0	0	21	3	12
Lyndale Utd	4	3	0	1	12	4	9
Carrum Utd	4	2	1	1	12	10	7
Old Brighton Grammarians	4	2	1	1	8	7	7
Riversdale	4	2	1	1	8	12	7
Old Carey	4	1	1	2	8	8	4
Beaumaris	4	1	1	2	7	7	4
Whitehorse Utd	4	1	1	2	3	7	4
Berwick Kings	2	1	0	1	6	7	3
White Star Dandenong	3	1	0	2	4	16	3
Rowville Eagles	4	0	2	2	6	11	2
Caulfield Cobras	3	0	0	3	3	6	0

Reserves

Riversdale 3 Beaumaris 0, Old Carey 3 Whitehorse Utd 0, Lyndale Utd 2 Old Brighton Grammarians 0, Dandenong Sparrows 0 Caulfield Utd 1, White Star Dandenong 3 Carrum Utd 3, Berwick Kings 2 Rowville Eagles 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Riversdale	4	3	1	0	15	6	10
Old Carey	4	3	0	1	19	5	9
Lyndale Utd	4	3	0	1	11	9	9
Berwick Kings	2	2	0	0	6	3	6
Beaumaris	4	2	0	2	9	8	6
Caulfield Utd	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Old Brighton Grammarians	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Dandenong Sparrows	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
White Star Dandenong	3	1	1	1	7	9	4
Whitehorse Utd	4	0	1	3	2	9	1
Carrum Utd	4	0	1	3	5	15	1
Rowville Eagles	4	0	1	3	6	17	1

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Upfield 1 (A Al Mugoter) Youth Utd 0, Keon Park 0 Surf Coast 1 (MB Jablonski), Brimbank City 1 Mill Park 1, Keilor Wolves 2 (D Kirkioski F Ivanco) Brimbank Stallions 1 (DP Gazzard), Melton 3 (P Matusiewicz P Tzimopoulos M Torres) Bundoora Utd 2 (NS Coyle 2), Ascot Vale 2 (F Aceiton A Barakat) Brunswick Zebras 1 (J Luca)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Upfield	4	3	1	0	9	3	10
Melton	4	2	1	1	10	7	7
Brimbank Stallions	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Surf Coast	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
Brunswick Zebras	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Keilor Wolves	4	2	0	2	6	8	6
Brimbank City	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Mill Park	4	1	2	1	5	8	5
Bundoora Utd	4	1	1	2	10	7	4
Youth Utd	4	1	1	2	4	4	4
Ascot Vale	4	1	0	3	4	9	3
Keon Park	4	0	1	3	2	9	1

Reserves

Upfield 4 Youth Utd 4, Keon Park 0 Surf Coast 4, Brimbank City 3 Mill Park 1, Keilor Wolves 1 Brimbank Stallions 2, Melton 3 Bundoora Utd 3, Ascot Vale 2 Brunswick Zebras 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bundoora Utd	4	3	1	0	21	6	10
Melton	4	3	1	0	9	4	10
Upfield	4	2	1	1	12	8	7
Keilor Wolves	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Brimbank City	4	2	1	1	9	7	7
Surf Coast	4	2	0	2	7	5	6
Brimbank Stallions	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
Youth Utd	4	1	2	1	9	10	5
Brunswick Zebras	4	1	1	2	10	4	4
Mill Park	4	1	0	3	9	12	3
Ascot Vale	4	1	0	3	3	9	3
Keon Park	4	0	0	4	1	27	0

PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Eltham North 1 (J Hoad) Old Trinity Grammarians 3 (TP Miller J Del Rio TW Didenko), Brighton 0 Keysborough 1 (M Roberts), Seaford Utd 3 (N Allen 2 BA Agirtan) East Bentleigh 1 (J Shaw), Noble Park 0 Bayside Argonauts 5 (C Kozaris E Cid 2 D Andreou), Uni. of Melbourne 2 (M Cosmano) Meadow Park Eagles 1 (MS Chiera), Endeavour Hills 3 (D Knell J Venkatasamy) Glen Waverley 5 (D Frantzis P Kelly M(Nanos 2)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brighton	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
Keysborough	4	2	1	1	11	6	7
Old Trinity Grammarians	4	2	1	1	15	12	7
Bayside Argonauts	2	2	0	0	7	0	6
Seaford Utd	4	2	0	2	5	4	6
Noble Park	4	2	0	2	7	12	6
Uni. of Melbourne	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Glen Waverley	4	1	1	2	9	11	4
East Bentleigh	4	1	1	2	7	9	4
Meadow Park Eagles	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
Eltham North	3	0	1	2	2	9	1
Endeavour Hills	2	0	0	2	4	8	0

Reserves

Eltham North 2 Old Trinity Grammarians 4, Brighton 1 Keysborough 1, Seaford Utd 1 East Bentleigh 0, Noble Park 1 Bayside Argonauts 5, Uni. of Melbourne 1 Meadow Park Eagles 2, Endeavour Hills 4 Glen Waverley 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bayside Argonauts	3	3	0	0	13	3	9
East Bentleigh	4	3	0	1	8	1	9
Old Trinity Grammarians	4	3	0	1	8	7	9
Glen Waverley	4	2	2	0	9	7	8
Meadow Park Eagles	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Seaford Utd	4	2	0	2	5	5	6
Keysborough	4	1	2	1	8	6	5
Brighton	4	0	2	2	3	6	2
Endeavour Hills	3	0	2	1	7	12	2
Noble Park	4	0	2	2	6	11	2
Uni. of Melbourne	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Eltham North	3	0	0	3	4	13	0

Covering The World Game On A Local Level.
Out Every Monday.
goal! Weekly

ROUND 5 FIXTURES

All matches to be played on Saturday 2nd May with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

STATE NW 2
Brunswick City v Thomastown Devils
Dunstan Reserve
Altona East Phoenix v Altona City
Paisley Park Soccer Complex
Werribee City v Geelong Rangers
Galvin Park Reserve
Williamstown v Westgate
JT Gray Reserve
North Geelong Warriors v Keilor Park
Elcho Park
Ballarat Red Devils v Sydenham Park
Trekardo Park

STATE SE 2
Doncaster Rovers v Dandenong City
Anderson Park Fri 1 May KO 8:30PM
Malvern City v Diamond Valley Utd
Kooyong Reserve No. 3
Casey Comets v South Springvale
Comets Stadium
Morwell Pegasus v Port Melbourne
Ronald Reserve
Heatherton Utd v Knox City
Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre
Kingston City v Eastern Lions
The Grange Reserve Mon 4 May KO 8:30PM

STATE NW 3
La Trobe University v Banyule City
Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld
Lalor v North Sunshine Eagles
RGC Cook Reserve
Cairnlea v Melbourne University Rangers
Cairnlea Park
Geelong v Moreland City
Stead Park Reserve, Corio
Hume Utd v Maribyrnong Greens
Laura Douglas Reserve
Westvale v Yarraville Glory
McKechnie Reserve

STATE SE 3
Peninsula Strikers v Croydon City Arrows
Centenary Park
Noble Park Utd v Southern Suburbs
Parkfield Reserve
Brandon Park v Springvale City
Freeway Reserve
Waverley Wanderers v Nunawading City
Carlson Ave Reserve
Boroondara Eagles v Berwick City
Macleay Park
Sandringham City v North Caulfield
RJ Sillitoe Reserve Sun 3 May KO 3:00PM

PROVI NW 1
Laverton Park v Whittlesea Utd
MacPhersons Park
Lalor Utd v Elwood City
HR Uren Reserve
Essendon Utd v Corio
Aberfeldie Park
FC Strathmore v Melbourne City
Strathnaver Reserve
Northern Falcons v Western Eagles
Hayes Park
Sunbury Utd v South Yarra
Langama Park

PROVI SE 1
Monash University v Monbulk
Monash Uni Sports Ground
Old Melburnians v Mooroolbark
Robert Menzies Reserve
Mornington v Ashburton
Dallas Brooks Park
Warragul Utd v Fitzroy City
Baxter Park (Warragul)
Endeavour Utd v Old Camberwell Grammar
Reema Reserve
Old Scotch v Doveton
H.A. Smith Reserve

PROVI NW 2
Bell Park v Hoppers Crossing
Bell Park Sports Club
Watsonia Heights v Collingwood City
Gabonia Reserve
Melbourne Tornado v Moreland Utd
Newmarket Reserve
North City Lions v Darebin Utd
Wallace Reserve
West Preston v Avondale Heights
Oulton Reserve
Plenty Valley Lions v Epping City
LE Cotchin Reserve

PROVI SE 2
Rowville Eagles v Dandenong Sparrows
Park Ridge Reserve
Carrum Utd v Berwick Kings
Italo-Australian Club
Lyndale Utd v White Star Dandenong
Lyndale Secondary College
Old Brighton Grammarians v Whitehorse Utd
Dendy Park
Riversdale v Old Carey
Frog Hollow Reserve
Beaumaris v Caulfield Cobras
Beaumaris Reserve

PROVI NW 3
Brunswick Zebras v Brimbank Stallions
Sumner Park
Bundoora Utd v Ascot Vale
Hills Recreation Reserve
Mill Park v Melton
Findon Reserve
Surf Coast v Brimbank City
Quay Reserve
Youth Utd v Keon Park
Seth Raistrick Reserve
Upfield v Keilor Wolves
Gibbs Reserve

PROVI SE 3
Glen Waverley v Bayside Argonauts
Larpent Reserve
Meadow Park Eagles v Endeavour Hills
Gladstone Park Reserve
East Bentleigh v Uni. of Melbourne
Bailey Reserve
Keysborough v Seaford Utd
Coomoora Reserve
Old Trinity Grammarians v Brighton
Trinity Sports Ground
Eltham North v Noble Park
Eltham North Reserve